WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 8, NO. 5 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | SEPTEMBER 1997

"People who work sitting down get paid more than people who work standing up." Ogden Nash

Opening of the Fleetwood:
What Might We Learn From This?

Frank Hoffman

The Fleetwood, permanent housing for formerly homeless people, will open this month in downtown Olympia. Welcome to beautiful downtown Olympia, Fleetwood residents--hope you like it here!

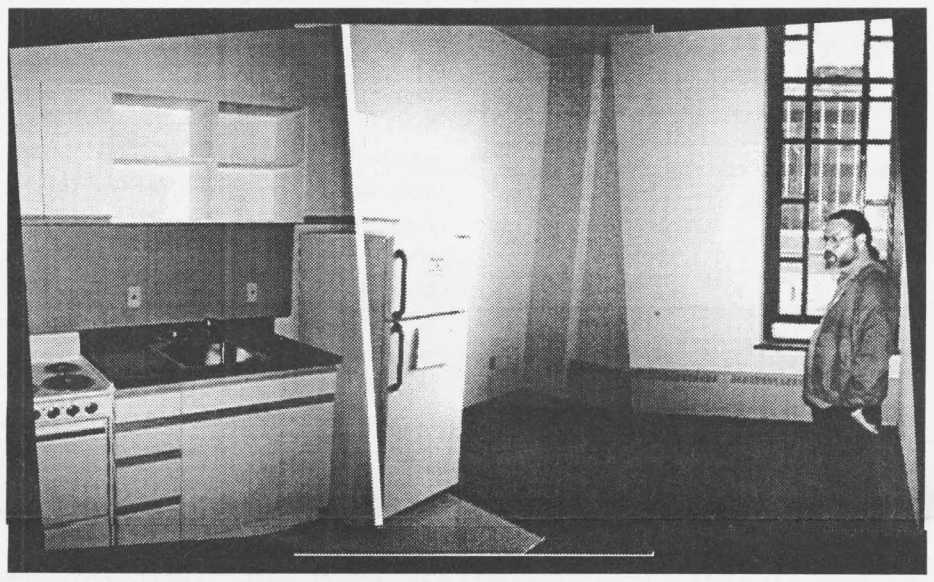
It hasn't been easy: being homeless isn't any piece of cake and the Fleetwood hasn't come easy either.

Olympia and Thurston County continue to grow and so has the need for affordable housing. Housing activists have struggled for years with various parts of local and state government to create transitional and permanent housing for people who have no place to live except on a friend's floor, the woods, or under the 4th Avenue bridge.

In 1992, the Olympia City Council made those bridges off limits to the homeless and the struggle by those displaced homeless people and others, that resulted in the opening of the Fleetwood this month, began.

Why are we so afraid of the homeless? There's no mystery about being homeless. If you don't have the money to rent a place - any place - you're no place; you're homeless. And you are still who you were when you had a place to call your own, no matter how modest that place was or how grand. Being homeless isn't a state of mind or a metaphysical condition. It has to do with a roof and four walls, a door to close, a window to open, an address, a chair, a bed, a table, a phone and a place to welcome your friends.

It has to do with poverty. As a society we seem to be in the middle of another paroxysm of blaming the poor for the way our political economy works. The news media trumpet that the economy is strong, that both inflation and unemployment are down and corporate profits are up.



A Composite photo of staffperson Ralph Smith surveying one of the Fleetwood Studio Apartments -- every apartment is uniquely configured, reflecting the diverse and unique story of the residents living inside.

Why can't we be generous with the people living in the woods and the people panhandling on our street corners? Is it because when we look into their eyes we see eyes like the ones that stared back at us in the bathroom mirror this morning? And we wonder how stable our lives are, how certain we can really be of what might be called our wealth, of what our fortunes will be next month or next year? We stumble along hoping for the best and trying to ignore the circumstances our relative wealth depends upon. Our wealth depends, for one thing, on our military ability to squash any opposition to our global economic policies. It looks like, instead of trying to understand and deal with issues like this, we get angry with the poor instead.

The First Baptist Church in downtown Olympia opened its doors to the homeless in 1992, after the City of Olympia waved its wand under the 4th Avenue bridge and bade the homeless to disappear. They slept on pallets on the floor of the church and tried to look out for each other. The church did not have the ability to provide this resource indefinitely, and after 16 months, in March of 1994, closed its temporary men's shelter.

Our patriarchy, in the past, grudgingly did minimal things to support needy women and children. Single men tend to get arrested, for one reason or another, if they persist in hanging around and look desperate. Why do we fear and banish them? Our brothers and fathers, sleeping under a bridge, riding in a freight car, slipping around a corner into the dark, smiling into the sun on a park bench, trying to figure it all out, like the rest of us.

The Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEME), composed of homeless people and their advocates was formed in Olympia by people who held potlucks under the bridge, slept on the floor of the First Baptist Church and petitioned government for help. People like Mary Clark, Ralph Smith, Letita Flynn, Delwin Redford, Jennifer Minich, Andre Tudor, Greg Hohnholt, Michael Bradley, Rick Hoonan, Mario, and others, were involved with SCHEME at one time or another. They held meetings and organized and agitated for transitional and permanent housing.

The opening of the Fleetwood, then, is not the end of a story. It is a kind of milestone. The residents' struggle is our struggle. The effort to create a city that is an inclusive community goes on.

And while they did that, a tent city sprung up in Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia. The park belongs to the statbut the city got angry. After 16 days the State Patrol ushered people off the premises. The State housed 34 of the park residents at the Holly Motel for 28 days. Somewhere in there, some SCHEME people approached the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) in Seattle about procuring the vacant Federal Building for housing the homeless. LIHI accomplished this. The city got angry again.

Some business people hired lawyer Shawn Newman to oppose this use of the Federal Building. A series of mediation meetings involving the Mayor, some business people, a couple lawyers, LIHI and some advocates for the homeless did much to reduce the tensions and fric-

(Continued on page 9)

1997 Primary Election Endorsements

		FV	WFSE
Lacey City Council			
Pos. 4		N	
Pos. 5		N	
Pos. 6	Harvey Billmaier	☑	
	Virgil S. Clarkson	☑	☑
Pos. 7		N	
Olympia City Council			
Pos. 4	Stan Biles	☑	☑
	Fiona Buzzard	☑	
	Mark Daniels		☑
	Barbara Young	☑	
Pos. 5	Holly Gadbaw	☑	☑
Pos. 6	Holly Aquino	☑	
	Margaret McPhee	☑	☑
Pos. 7	Jeanette Hawkins	☑	☑
Tumwater City Council			
Mayor		N	
Pos. 4	Bruce Zeller	☑	☑
Pos. 5		N	
Pos. 6	Nadine Romero	☑	☑
*(Strongly Opposed: Mark Shattuck)		*	
Olympia School Board			
Pos. 3	John McGee	☑	☑
Pos. 5		N	
N. Thurston School Board			
Pos. 3	Aaron Owada		☑
Griffin School Board			
Pos. 2	Doris Faltys-Burr	☑	
Pos. 5	Fred Finn	☑	
Port Commissioner			
Pos. 3	Jeff Dickinson		☑
Thurston County Treasurer			
Robin Hunt		☑	☑
Fire District #6			
Pos. 2	Mary Kaemfe		☑

An "N" means "No Endorsement" and is indicated when no survey was received by our Primary Endorsement deadline or the response(s) received were inadequate to receive a Freedom Vote endorsement.

Freedom Vote is a south puget sound endorsement committee that promotes candidates for public office who are committed to equality in civil rights for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender individuals. Contact: PO Box 7703 Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 943-4662.

Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) is a member of the American of Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. Contact Local 443: PO Box 105 Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 943-1624.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Copy w/o permission.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located at the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell, Tom Freeman, Frank Hoffman, Teresa Jennings, Jerome Johnson, Evelyn Montague, Wendy Ortiz, Hali Panneton, Tara Perkins, CJ Russo, Marie Smith, Sylvia Smith, Pat Tassoni, Scott Yoos, Dave Zink

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Sept. 19th

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

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LETTERS, ETC.

Portland Loses Subsidized Housing -- Olympia's Future?

To the editor,

A change in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rates for low-income housing subsidies -- along with a booming real estate market -- is making it very difficult for voucher-dependent renters to find affordable units in downtown Portland. According to the Oregonian (14 July), the new rates, which are based on market values, will substantially reduce subsidies to downtown rental owners. And it appears that, after federal contracts expire, most of the owners will look elsewhere for new business deals; while their former renters will be free to look elsewhere for new homes.

Hans Juhr is the landlord of the Roosevelt Plaza Hotel, a 72 year-old residency for low-income people, located in downtown Portland. Mr. Juhr told the Oregonian that, under a new HUD contract, he would lose $200 per unit. Rather than take a cut, he is opting "to sell the Roosevelt to an upscale developer..." (14 July), after his federal contract expires on August 31. Several Portland contracts conclude on that day; most owners are expected to join Hans and sell to the highest bidder. Good luck to the bidders with low-income vouchers.

If the change in subsidy rates is creating problems for non-upscale renters in Portland, are similar developments unfolding in other U.S. cities? The July 14th article reported that, nationally, "2.8 million (residential) units could be lost by the end of 2000..." Locally, across the river in Vancouver, WA, the owners of Pythian House, a federally subsidized residence for retired people, have announced that they, too, will enter the privatization parade that is sweeping the nation. How is this change in subsidy rates affecting low-income renters in Olympia?

Greg Bye
Portland, OR

SAFEPLACE:

RAPE RELIEF AND WOMEN'S SHELTER SERVICES is now recruiting dedicated volunteers. The fall volunteer training begins in October. We need your time, talents and experience for:

- Counseling and referral
- Working with youth
- Answering crisis line calls
- Facilitating support groups
- Community outreach
- Office work
- And more!!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 786-8754 V/TTY

Women Who Dare

Black feminist and Seattle writer Helen Collier will speak on her own experiences as a worker and her soon- to-be-published second book, Women Who Dare To Fight Back on Thursday, September 4, 7:30pm. Based on interviews with women from many races and walks of life, Collier's new book highlights their inherent strength and ability to rebound from setbacks.

A fighter herself, in 1994 Collier successfully settled a lawsuit charging her employer with sexual harassment and retaliation; she then waged a discrimination suit against her union when it failed to represent her and other females. Says Ms. Collier, "The entire human race comes through the body of a woman, yet the spotted owl is more valued than she is." She hopes her book will help change this state of affairs and bring together women of all races to make fundamental societal change.

Ms. Collier will speak at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. A Southern dinner (vegetarian option available) will be served at 6:30pm for a $6.00 donation. The event is hosted by Radical Women. For rides or childcare, call (206) 722-6057 or 722-2453. Everyone is welcome and the meeting site is wheelchair accessible.

I may not have become
All that you had dreamed
But my life is really good
No matter what it seemed

As I grew up
You were there
From my brownie troop
To my high school year

You were there through the birth
Of both my daughter and son
You were there for me
When I married my husband

When I made stupid decisions
You would try and be my guide
When I became very ill
You were there by my side

This daughter can never repay
What her mother has done
Only hopes she does as well
With her daughter and son

From the top of my head
All the way down to my shoe
The last thing needed said
Is how much I love you

I LOVE YOU MOM
Your Daughter,
Gladys

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SEPTEMBER 1997

Safe Schools Anti-Violence Documentation Project

(Part Two: The Seattle Public Schools 1995 Teen Health Risk Survey)

Examining the Safety and Well-Being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Targeted Heterosexual Youth

Overall, about 91% of students called themselves Heterosexual. The other 9% said either that they did not consider themselves Heterosexual or that they were not sure:

* 1% identified themselves as Gay or Lesbian.
* 4% described themselves as Bisexual.
* Approximately 4% said they were not sure of their orientations.

HARASSMENT

Eight percent of all students said they have been targeted because of their perceived orientation. GLB were over five times as likely to report having been the target of anti-gay harassment or violence (34% and 6% respectively). However, because there are so many more Heterosexual youth, a greater actual number of Heterosexual youth reported having experienced this devastating form of bullying. About four straight youth were called "gay," "faggot," "dyke," etc. as a form of insult, for every GLB student who was similarly taunted.

All youth who said they have been the target of offensive remarks or attacks about their sexual orientations or (perceived) orientation were far more likely than those who have not been bullied in this way, to report other risks, fears and self-destructive behaviors. In addition, Heterosexuals were also more likely than their non-targeted peers to report grade point averages of "C" or "D" (23.4% vs. 19.1%).

VIOLENCE

GLB youth were 75% more likely to report being having been threatened or injured by someone -- with a weapon --at school in the past year. The weapons may have been clubs, knives or other objects. They were also nearly three times as likely to report having been injured in a fight in the past year severely enough to have required treatment by a doctor or nurse. It may be that GLB youth are more seriously injured in assaults at school than straight youth because they are more often outnumbered in those assaults (average ratio of three against one).

FEAR

One in five GLB students reported feeling unsafe or afraid at school, at least some of the time, whereas about one in eight Heterosexual students feels that way.

GLB students were also more than twice as likely to say they have missed at least one day of school in the month preceding the survey out of fear for their safety. In fact, 9.2% of GLB youth who said they had not personally ever been the target of anti-gay harassment or violence reported having missed school in the past month out of fear.

SUPPORT

A higher percentage of GLB students said they had someone at school to whom they would go, than of their Heterosexual classmates (57.7% vs. 44.0%). And most GLB teens (over 90%) also reported thinking that at least one adult in their lives really cares about them. On the other hand, 9.7% said they could not think of any who do. In fact, GLB teens were over three times as likely as their Heterosexual peers to say that they could not think of even one adult who really cares about them.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

GLB students were over half again as likely as their Heterosexual peers to report high risk or heavy drug use. (19) However, the frequency in both groups is alarming (35.8% and 22.5%, respectively).

SUICIDE

Gay, Lesian and Bisexual students were:

• twice as likely as Heterosexual students to report having seriously considered suicide in the twelve months preceding the survey (34.4 vs. 16.7%),

• twice as likely to say that they made a suicide plan in the 12 months preceding the survey (31.1 vs. 15.7%),

• three times as likely to report having attempted suicide in the twelve months preceding the survey (20.6 vs. 6.7%), and

• over four times as likely to report that they made a serious enough attempt on their lives to require treatment by a doctor or nurse in the twelve months preceding the survey (9.4 vs. 2.2%).

RESOURCES

The Safe Schools Coalition (central clearinghouse) ... (206) 632-0662, ext. 208

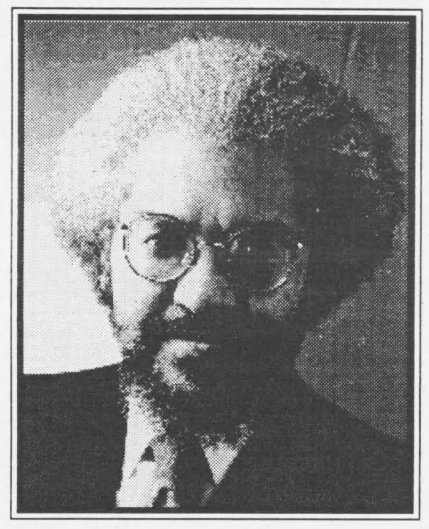
The Thurston County Chapter of the Safe Schools Coalition ... (360) 943-2590.

P-FLAG (Olympia chapter)... (360) 866-0511

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got." **Janis Joplin**	**1** **1875**- Democrats attack Republicans in Mississippi:1white, 3 blacks killed **1996** - Hardel's on Budd Inlet burns	**2** **1916**- Wilson signs bill giving 8-hour day for railway workers **1921**- Mineowners bomb West virginia strikers by plane	**3** **1996** - United States fire 27 cruise missiles at Iraq killing 5 people. Later in the day 17 additional missiles were fired	**4** **1875**- Start of Clinton Massacre, Miss. 20-30 blacks killed. **1949**- Riot keeps Paul Robeson from singing at Lakeland , NY	**5** **1995** - Silo closes stores in Northwest **1996** - Waldo backs down on Craswell's hire only"godly" state employees comment	**6** **1995** - Senate Ethics Comm. finds Packwood should be expelled from Senate for engaging in sexual/ official misconduct
7 **1963**- US backed South Vietnam President Diem arrests 800 high school students for demonstrating against his rule	**8** **1974**- Nixon is pardoned by Ford **1965**- United Farm Workers start strike against California grape growers	**9** **1957**- Nashville elementary school destroyed by dynamite blast. School enrollment of 388 whites, one African-american	**10** **1996** - The Heritage Park fountain was turned on again after being shut down following an injury on July 29	**11** **1973**- President Allende assassinated **1962**- 2 youths in Mississippi voter registration drive suffer shotgun wounds	**12** **1995** - 1,000 Natives rally on US Capitol steps protesting Senate budget-cutting plan to cut federal funding to tribes	**13** **1996** - Amy Revay shot in back by estranged husband **1996** - Tupac Shakur is shot and killed in Las Vegas
14 **1935**- Washington: Cordell Hull apologizes to German Reich for Louis Brodsky's talk against Nazi rule	**15** **1995** - Port of Olympia, State Department and Cascade Pole agree to share equally the $10-13 million clean up cost	**16** *full moon* ● **1934**- Lutherans in Munich march to anti-Nazi songs **1986**- 177 miners die in South African gold mine fire	**17** **1902**- US gov. protest Rumanian persecution of Jews **1965**- Saigon: U.S. forces told to curb civilian killings	**18** **1996** - Dept of Health and Human Services claims abuse and neglect of America's young nearly doubled from 1986 to 1993	**19** **1885**- Chinese coal miners driven out of Black Diamond WA **1981**- 300,000 in Solidarity Day march on Washington, DC	**20** **1995** - House of Representatives vote to repeal the 55-mph speed limit **1973**- Billie Jean King beats B. Riggs
21 **1995** - With nearly 35,000 absentee ballots, King County proposal to build $325 million baseball stadium passes by 301	**22** **1862**- Emanicpation Proclamation **1995** - The Longhouse Center at the Evergreen State College is dedicated	**23** **1996** -Panel finds 68% of 200 logging operations in Washington state violated rules designed to protect fish and wildlife	**24** **1996** - US Public Interest Research Group rates WA state number first in carcinogens discharged into state's water	**25** **1995** - Thurston County Commissioners vote 3-0 to free a $450,000 state grant to build apartments in Fleetwood Building	**26** **1996** - Lunar esclipse **1996**- Battles between Palenstinian police and Israeli troops kill at least 38 Palestinians and 11 Israelis	**27** **1875**- Massachusetts: Striking textile workers demand bread for starving children **1996** - Amy Revay dies
28 **1904**- Woman arrested in NYC for smoking cigarette **1962**- Gov Barnett found guilty in contempt of federal court	**29** **1750**- Crispus Attucks escaped from his slaveholder in MA **1986**- House overrides Reagan's veto on S. African sanctions	**30** **1962**- Meredith escorted onto U of Miss campus by US Marshals and 3,000 federal troops. 2 men died in mob violence	**No person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended.** **Alice Walker**	**AUGUST** S M T W T F S: 1 2 / 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 / 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 / 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 / 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 / 31	**OCTOBER** S M T W T F S: 1 2 3 4 / 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 / 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 / 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 / 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Along the Color Line

America Faces the Future



Dr. Manning Marable

Awhile ago I visited Seattle to participate in an educational workshop at the University of Washington. The meeting brought together a group of outstanding scholars to discuss the future development of ethnic studies on American campuses. What was significant was that this dialogue was not grounded in the old bipolar framework of black and white. American Indian, Asian and Latino perspectives were central to our discussion.

In Seattle itself, the city has become a vibrant center of wide spectrum of cultures, ethnic traditions and languages. As of 1990, the Bureau of the Census reported 135,000 Asian Americans in metropolitan Seattle, 8 percent of the area's population. Today the Asian American's percentage exceeds 10 percent. Seattle's historic black community also has deep roots in the city.

But the most striking multicultural experience was at a Saturday night party I attended. I had been invited to attend a gathering of black, brown and Asian trade union activists and community organizers, which was held at a private home in the black community. The party was festive, with a wide selection of foods and beverages reflecting a range of cultural tastes. Some workers at the gathering represented unions from Nicaragua, the Philippines, Brazil and other Third World countries. Some were Communists, socialists, Democrats and or Christians. Many spoke more than one language; nearly all were veterans of labor struggles. Most of the Seattle residents at the reception had been active members of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition in the 1980s. They spoke to me about their deep disappointment when Jesse decided inexplicably to dismantle his own progressive organization and quietly succumb to the Democratic Party.

...American racism endures, in part, because it is inextricably linked to the economic and political structures of power within our society.

We often tend to think of the world in stark racial terms. Most of us believe that racism has always existed, and therefore it always will be. Human beings have certainly exhibited extraordinary cruelty toward each other on the basis of real or perceived differences in their language, ethnicity or cultural tradition. But American racism endures, in part, because it is inextricably linked to the economic and political structures of power within our society. People are oppressed "racially" not fundamentally due to the color of their skin: racism pays, and racism is chiefly manifested in the inequality and powerlessness of the oppressed.

This perspective on the political economy of race tells us that racism can be dismantled and uprooted. With strong coalitions across the barriers of color and community we could build a democratic movement calling for the restructuring of power throughout society. The fight for full employment, universal health care, decent schools for our children, and adequate shelter is central to the empowerment of black people. Yet as we fight for these objectives as black folk, others of different cultures and ethnic origins can unite with us around the practical questions of daily life.

If and when America has the courage to face its future, it will do so not through the mirror images of Western Europe. The face of America's future is overwhelmingly African, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino. It speaks in many languages besides English. For us to face the future we must be honest about the dynamics of oppression and the real chasm of inequality which still divides our nation. But as we begin this process of honest dialogue, we must start by facing the images and colorful spectrum of humanity which increasingly defines the reality of America.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to all black publications. It appears in over 300 newspapers throughout the U.S. and internationally. ■

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Up Front

For Sam, Bill, Julia and all my other Friends at UPS

One For The Road

Jerome Johnson

In the fall of 1986, I was a semi-employed college graduate. I was experienced and qualified, prime buppie material, but I was so turned off by the whole 80's scene that I just said, "Fuck it," and dropped out. I made my living in the underground economy -- child care, yard work, housekeeping, driving. I didn't get rich, but I loved the freedom and lack of job stress.

I was reading the paper one day and saw an ad for UPS driver's helpers. Full time, temporary over the holidays, $6.35 an hour. Things were slow, so I applied. Within a week I got a call, and I drove to the UPS center in Fife for orientation.

The UPS center in Fife is a big building on 20th, just off the freeway. We filled out paperwork and got brief lectures on UPS history, practice and image. "Walk a brisk pace when you're delivering. Too fast, and people will be scared you'll forget or lose something -- like their package. Too slow, and they'll think you're slacking off. But be careful -- it's going to be wet and slippery. Especially at the end of the day, when you want to go home -- that's when you're most careful."

We were issued uniforms, wished good luck and happy holidays, it was good to have us with UPS.

The day after Thanksgiving was dark, cold and gray. I met my driver and by eight we were moving. We worked Olympia's west side -- some residential, some businesses, some state offices. Until Christmas Eve we made deliveries and pickups, in the cold and rain and snow and wind and traffic. Often we skipped breaks and we worked until we were finished, past six as Christmas got closer.

The three winters I worked, I had great drivers to work with. They were kind, courteous, and treated me like a partner and not a lackey. I was a stranger to their daily routine unknown to their customers, but they welcomed me and made me feel like I'd been riding with them for months. We got our teamwork perfected. I'd get dropped off in a business park with a lot of packages and a hand truck. My driver took off to deliver elsewhere, I delivered to the businesses. Forty-five minutes (often less) later, I'd get picked up and we'd move on. Sometimes we averaged one package per second. We were on the jazz -- always on time, never any injuries or accidents.

I'm glad the workers won a settlement, and I'm glad the Teamsters and airline pilots, among others, supported the strike. Not only are UPS workers getting a better deal, the success of the strike at this point is an inspiration to the power of people united to change labor conditions.

Although we didn't spend much time together, a warm camaraderie grew in the truck. One conversation could take all day, going in traffic between stops. We got to know each other a little -- talked about our families and hobbies and backgrounds. It felt like UPS just paid us -- we were really working for all the people we served every day, like the elderly people getting packages from their families. And on our last night, Christmas Eve, we exchanged gifts and chatted just a little longer than we usually did after work.

I've since kept in touch with the drivers I rode with. Both still work for UPS. "I don't want to be out here, but I have to," said one, from the picket line.

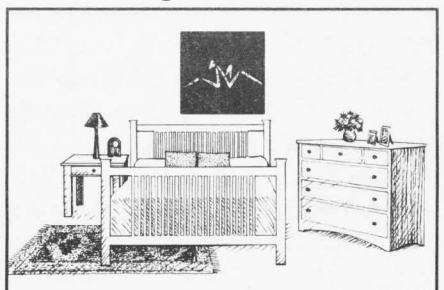
I'm glad the workers won a settlement, and I'm glad the Teamsters and airline pilots, among others, supported the strike. Not only are UPS workers getting a better deal, the success of the strike at this point is an inspiration to the power of people united to change labor conditions.

In Palestine, Yasir Arafat prepares for a renewal of the Intifadeh, while struggling to hold the Authority together.

In Cambodia, Hun Sen tightens his bloody grips on power.

In New York, amidst national attention, Abner Louima recovers from his injuries.

And in Tumwater, the business day begins with the movement of brown trucks along Airdustrial Way, misty in the crisp August dawn. ■



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Prison Privatization

Follow the Money

Dan Pens

When "Deep Throat" met with Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward in a dimly lit parking garage, he advised the perplexed reporter to "follow the money." That, he said, was the key to unlocking the Watergate mystery.

No truer words were ever spoken. Woodward and Carl Bernstein were hopelessly lost in a tangle of intrigue, attempting to unravel Watergate by analysis of political motivations. The reporter sleuths had been chasing shadows. When they began to follow the money, they broke Watergate wide open.

The same lesson applies today. Forget the issues. Congressional budget debates are portrayed by the media as political struggles: the D's vs. the R's, Clinstone vs. The Grinch. The public's attention is focused on the political haggling.

If and when Jane or Joe Lunchbox are stimulated out of their apathy by these debates, their displeasure is usually directed at the D's or R's or both. Or simply at "the government." If their ire boils to the point of wanting to take action, the response is usually political.

"Get involved," liberal activists urge. "This is a Democracy. Together we can fight the government."

Fighting the government, though, is like boxing with shadows. Follow the money.

Trickle Up Economics

Every three years since 1983, the Federal Reserve, in cooperation with the IRS, has conducted the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). The survey uses statistical sampling to develop a profile of assets, liabilities, net worth and income of 100 million U.S. households. An overview of the survey is published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin, but most of the data is available only in highly technical unpublished working papers.

Doug Henwood, editor/publisher of Left Business Observer (LBO), and author of the book Wall Street, presented data in an LBO article ["Measuring Privilege," LBO #78, July 17, 1997] based on one of those unpublished Federal Reserve working papers Arthur B. Kennickell and Louise Woodburn, "Consistent Weight Design for the 1989, 1992, and 1995 SCFs, and the Distribution of Wealth," June 23, 1997. The data was also reported by Fred Goldstein in Workers World (Vol. 39, No. 31, July 31, 1997).

A summary of the data shows that the vaunted concentration of wealth as highly touted during the Voodoo Economic 1980's pales in comparison to what occurred in the first three years of the Clinstone administration — no doubt prompting the super-rich to yell "Yabba Dabba Doo" with unrestrained glee.

Between 1992 and 1995, the richest 0.5 percent of U.S. households — 500,000 families — increased their assets by $1.6 trillion (about $3.2 billion per family). This was greater than the asset gains of the other 99.5 million households combined.

In 1995, the richest 0.5 percent of households owned:

27.1% of real estate (other than principal residence),

31.5% of stocks,

46.5% of bonds,

and 59.9% of business assets.

The bottom 90 percent of households combined owned:

20.2% of real estate (other than principal residence),

15.6% of stocks,

9.7% of bonds, and

7.7% of business assets.

The remainder is accounted for by the richest 50 - 99.5 percent of U.S. households.

The 1995 SCF reported the *average* income of the bottom 90 percent as $33,273. Their average net worth was pegged at $39,252. Contrast that with the richest 0.5 percent with income of $700,677 and net worth a whopping $10,757,046.

In real (inflation adjusted) dollar terms, between 1992 and 1998, the rich flourished. Incomes of the bottom 90 percent rose 0.9 percent (total, not per year). But the income of the top 0.5 percent shot up 44 percent. Nonresidential net worth was up 1.5 percent for the bottom 90 percent, but up 26 percent for the super-rich.

There is one category where the poorest 90 percent outperformed the super-rich: debt. Liabilities for the bottom 90 percent rose 11 percent, while falling 19 percent for the richest half a percent.

The Poor Get Poorer — The Rich Get Prisons

Wall Street recently celebrated an initial public offering (IPO) and welcomed the addition of a spanking new growth-oriented corporation: CCA Prison Realty Trust.

This Nashville-based corporation is a spin-off of the world's largest private prison corporation — another Wall Street darling, Corrections Corporation of America, whose stock is one of the top performers on the NYSE (doubling in value in just the first six months of 1997). CCA Prison Realty Trust is the nation's first real estate investment trust (REIT) that will focus solely on buying prisons.

As reported by Gregg Wirth in LBO, CCA Prison Realty sold 15.5 million shares in its IPO, 1.5 million more than originally planned, at a price of $21 a share, a dollar above initial projections, so hot was Wall Street for a piece of the imprisonment action. The deal was underwritten by investment bank J.C. Bradford & Company, also based in Nashville, and a fleet of co-managing firms, including heavyweights Lehman Brothers and PainWebber.

In a research paper, Equitable Securities (yet another Nashville firm), estimated that the U.S. prison population will reach 3.5 million over the next ten years, more than double the 1995 warm-body count of 1.6 million prisoners. In an SEC filing in advance of the IPO, Equitable Securities wrote, "As a result of the number of crimes committed each year and the corresponding number of arrests, incarceration costs generally grow faster than any other part of a government's budget. In an attempt to address these pressures, government agencies responsible for the operation of correctional and detention facilities are increasingly privatizing such facilities."

The malodorous language of corporate profiteering on the imprisonment of humans is bad enough. But as Wirth points out in LBO, the real stench of this IPO rises from the revelation that CCA Prison Realty will make its first incestuous purchase of nine prisons from its parent corporation, Corrections Corporation of America, for $308.1 million. Unsurprisingly, many of the top executives of CCA are also running CCA Prison Realty. Doctor R. Crants, CEO of CCA, is also chairman of CCA Prison Realty. While some Wall Street analysts pointed out this apparent conflict of interest, that didn't deter eager investors from scooping up the shares.

CCA Prison Realty will hand over $308.1 million -cash — to its parent and then lease the nine prisons to CCA. With the $80 million left over, CCA Prison Realty will be shopping for more prisons — most likely from CCA, which has five new prisons under construction.

And CCA, flush with over $300 million in cash, will be looking to boldly expand the frontiers of prison privatization, no doubt lobbying state and federal lawmakers for tougher crime bills and longer sentences in the process.

Left Business Observer (ISSH 1042-0134), the principal source for this article, is available for $22/yr ($55/yr for institutional/high income) from: LBO; 250 W 85 Street; New York, NY 10024-3217. Doug Henwood's book, Wall Street, can be ordered by calling 1-800-233-4830, or by visiting a bookstore. ■

In 1995, the richest 0.5 percent of households owned 27.1% of real estate (other than principal residence), 31.5% of stocks, 46.5% of bonds, and 59.9% of business assets.

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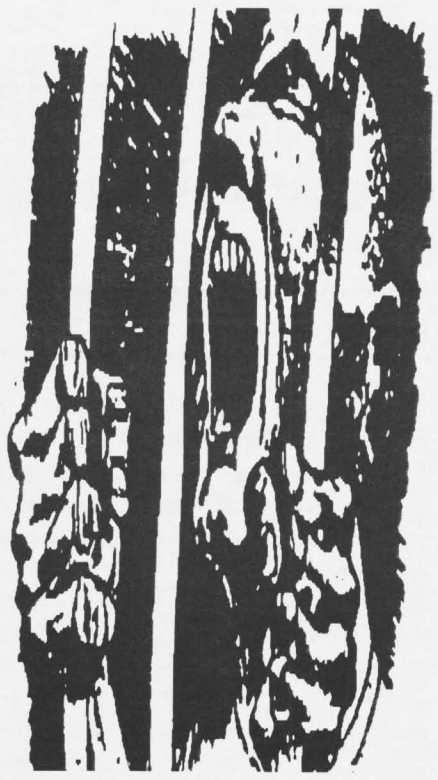
From Books To Prisoners

To Hell With "Waiting For The Revolution"



Treetop

You asked for my thoughts on the article, "Anarchists, Violence and Social Change: Perspectives from todays grassroots." So I'll tell you what I think.

For me, this just points up the major flaws with the whole concept of calling oneself "an anarchist". What are we really telling people when making this claim? Not much. Other than implying we believe in "no government" and "no laws", the term has little or no explanatory value, and personally, I've stopped using it. Most folks who do use it are quick to hyphenate it with this or that "school of anarchist thought". Kind of reminds me of the many denominations of christianity. And worse yet, the need for the hyphen points up clearly the reality that Anarchism, in and of itself, offers no methodology.

It's practically a generic, catchall term for anyone dissatisfied with the current powers that be. In fact, most of the descriptions of "what an anarchist society would look like", invoke mystical images of "society enlightened." Crowley and the other proponents of stands western occultism offer a "code of ethics" remarkably similar to the anarchist ideas, and yogic systems have always sought to enlighten and awaken the practitioner. I have no quarrel with lofty ideals no matter what name they go by. But dammit, these are subjective and ambiguous gods. It's unscientific.

We can speak in glowing tones forever of "how things would be if only folks would...(fill in the blank), but where does it get us? Somehow I think discussing a yes/no dichotomy as to violence comes dangerously close to "politics as usual", something history tells us seldom does much good for most people. I side with Vakim Bey. To hell with "waiting for the revolution." I ain't coming. Changes come every day. But the rest of the earth isn't gonna one day decide to spontaneously rise up and work together.

Even if there is a revolution, who calls the shots? And who's agenda shall we implement? We need to transcend the old ways of thinking if we want real, lasting positive change. Old style politics only lead to more of the same. Change must be personal. Be autonomous. Create your own Autonomous love around yourself. To think one should seek to impose is on others doesn't sound like anarchy to me anyway.

As a starting point, list everything you see as wrong in the world. Then list all the ways you contribute to or help perpetuate that wrong in your life. Work at ways to stop doing these things yourself. Next, try and list ways you can make a positive difference (no matter how small), by yourself in your day to day life. If you do this, it will be easy for anyone with similar thoughts or goals to work with you.

R. Buckminster Fuller was a role model we could all learn much from trying to do the greatest possible good, for the most possible people, with the least materials, starting with nothing, and not trying to persuade anyone to do anything. He set out to see what one man alone could accomplish. Dialogue is fine. And cooperation is wonderful. But, if what we think is best can work, we ought to be able to do it as individuals first. (If not, who are we kidding?) And if we can do it, and if it works well when we do, folks will notice and adopt whatever parts of your life-style that appeal to them. That's how you get results.

We need to transcend the old ways of thinking if we want real, lasting positive change. Change must be personal. To think one should seek to impose is on others doesn't sound like anarchy to me anyway.

You'll never talk the government out of office. But is we "get our shit together as individuals", perhaps they'll become obsolete. There's that "enlightened populace" thing rearing its ugly head again. But doing it yourself first ought to allow us to avoid dogma and fanaticism. The fatal flaws of communism; christianity (etc., etc....) So there's some of what the article brought up for me. Agenda. Everybody's got one.

Oh, and by the way, thanks for the other materials as well. If you get the chance, send me some stuff that might appeal to a person who would write a letter like this.

The author is a prisoner in Pennsylvania and this article is a response to a Books to Prisoner volunteer's query ■

"First allow me to thank you for your time, I know it takes a special kind of person to write a convict. We all are not bad just made bad choices in our lifes. I try to learn when I first came to prison in 1976 I could not read or write very good. The prison did not waste time on people such as I, but a White man in Lock Up slowly taught me. Now I love to read any and all I can get." John John on Death Row in TX

Books to Prisoners

Special September Events

• Look for us September 1st at the Labor Day Celebration in Sylvester Park

• Backstage Rock, Pop, Hip Hop Show, Friday Sept 5th, 9 pm, Capitol Theater $5 all ages

Bring a good book and save $1

• Huge Book & Bake Sale to Raise much needed money for postage and basic supplies Sat/Sun Sept 6 & 7th and Sat/Sun Sept 13&14th, 9-5 pm both weekens 1008 SE Adams (near

• Buy Food! Eat Herty!!! and help Books to Prisoners. Bring us all the grocery receipts you can from Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway (dated from Jan. 1997-Sept. 1997). The project will receive 1%, every penny helps!

Note: We need receipts by Sept 29th!! You can even mail them. (see address below)

• Soup to Soap it all helps! Save the UPC code from any Western Family product bring or mail these to us at B to P, 116 E 4th Ave. Olympia WA 98501

• Join us at our open work session every Thurs 3-9 pm above Bulldog News.

Silvester Thomas, TX

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia receives each month and its limited resources, requests from January are just now being filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed. If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

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It is up to you to Sustain Progress

The Olympia School District Plans the New Alternative High School

Joshua Berger

John Dewey writes, in the last chapter of his book, *Experience and Education*, "...the road of the new education is not an easier one to follow than the old road but a more strenuous and difficult one. It will remain so until it has attained its majority and that attainment will require many years of serious co-operative work on the part of all its adherents."

To this effect I am writing. It has been since April that I have been pushing the Olympia School District to adopt a sound and worthwhile alternative to the traditional Capital and Olympia High Schools. Since then, buttons have been pushed, channels have been opened, and ideas have been stirred. And now, starting in November, students will be enrolled into the new alternative high school here in Olympia.

My main concern now, is in what direction it will go. The basic premise of the school will be the importance of an individualized, non-graded, contract curriculum, not much unlike Evergreen's philosophy. The student, teacher, and a parent/guardian will sit down and decide what each individual student wants and needs to graduate from high school. This will include internships throughout the community with academic learning packages to accompany them. It will include one on one attention in a small classroom with a wonderful student to teacher ratio. It will include state of the art computers and internet access. Yet even with all this, the program will go nowhere with out the communities involvement and support.

What we need, and have the opportunity for here in Olympia, is a school with local autonomy and greater individual care.

The school will start small, fifty students, two teachers, two educational assistants, an administrator and a counselor. The first order of business is to have a place for those students who truly need it. Drop out students and students considered to be at risk will be given first priority. But there is nothing to stand in its way for expansion unless there is no support from the community.

The school can easily become an extension of the Options program that already exists at the elementary and middle school level. Those students who just don't adhere to the traditional school setting can have another opportunity. Those for whom it is necessary to be working can extend their job into academic credit. Programs can be added as they seem necessary. But only if you support it and involve yourself.

The current wave of education in this country is to set higher and higher standards. Why can't we be more like the Japanese or the Germans? But the truth of the matter is, while we raise the standards and apply more and more standardized testing, more and more students are falling through the holes that our greedy politicians are making. What we need, and have the opportunity for here in Olympia, is a school with local autonomy and greater individual care.

This requires not only the best of teachers and administrators, but the full support of a community who cares not only for their average SAT score, but the smiles and satisfaction of their students. The School District is willing to do the dirty work. They are spending money, they are opening classrooms, and they are going out into the community looking for internship possibilities. And now it is time for you to get your feet wet. Jump into the lake to save our children!

I quote here, Paulo Friere: "The point of departure of the movement lies in the people themselves. But since people do not exist apart from the world, apart from reality, the movement must begin with the human-world relationship. Accordingly, the point of departure must always be with men and women in the "here and now", which constitutes the situation from which they are submerged, from which they emerge, and in which they intervene....To do this authentically they must perceive their state not as fated and unalterable, but merely as limiting - and therefore challenging."

I implore you, challenge yourself and our situation. Involve yourself with the lives of our future. I hope to start a community planning committie made up of teachers, parents and students who are determined to see this school work. If you are interested in helping me, or you would just like some more information about the new school please call Joshua @ 352-4425. And don't be afraid to call your administrators or school board members, tell them what you think! ■

What Do We Expect of the Police?

Frank Hoffman

The Olympia Planning Commission has been working for months on a set of goals and policies for the police department that will be made part of the City Comprehensive Plan. The Preliminary Draft of the Policing Policies was dicussed by the Planning Commission at its August 11, 1997, meeting in Olympia City Hall. A public hearing about the policies will be held September 15, at City Hall.

There are eight policing goals in this proposed plan. You can get a copy of it by calling 753-8314. Goal 2 talks about "empower(ing) the citizens of Olympia as partners in solving community problems." It seems to me that the police should not be the part of city government that, as in policy 2.2, "facilitates community solutions to complex social problems." We expect too much of the police, apparently because we don't want to attempt an understanding of "complex social problems" and develop more sophisticated and meaningful responses than calling the police.

The City asks the police to deal with Anglo teenagers sitting on the sidewalks downtown or hanging out in Sylvester Park; and Latino teenagers having a good time in a restaurant on Capitol Way; and Southeast Asian teenagers in a westside pool hall (all recent events.) Perhaps the City Manager and the City Council should develop new ways of responding to Olympia teenagers, ways that do not involve armed force. Perhaps we should redefine the work of the city's Community Development Department (and replace its top leadership.) Perhaps the redeveloped Department would, instead of involving the police, send mediators to work on these kinds of community issues. Develop drug rehabilitation centers instead of chasing drug users. Become impatient with the downtown business owners and others, who, despite their rhetoric, want the downtown population to be monochrome consumers.

It is possible for different age groups, different economic classes, different ethnic groups, to be part of Olympia's central culture...The role of the police needs to be redefined - not expanded.

It is possible for different age groups, different economic classes, different ethnic groups, to be part of Olympia's central culture. Its definition of itself. Our definition of our community. The rich and the poor can coexist downtown. It seems like a lot of the unrest downtown is caused in the name of the relatively rich in an effort to disappear the relatively poor. We all should have just one vote in these issues. Why doesn't the City Community Development Department redefine itself as a supporter of democracy and a leader in creating an inclusive community?

The role of the police needs to be redefined - not expanded. And if the redefinition is to have meaning and if police accountability to the public is going to really happen, the street cops, the police who can reach out and put a hand on you or me, need to be actively involved in that redefinition.

If the street cops, the workers, are just handed a set of policies they don't really understand or support - what can the city expect? ■

Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects

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Providing: Free info, condoms, literature, lube, bleach kits, gloves, etc.

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Youth Empowerment

Olympia Community Needs Methadone Clinic

Louisa and Gretchen Guydish

Marionette woke to what could have been the stench of death. The abandoned warehouse they had called home for the night now reeked of human waste and vomit. People had passed out under sheets of cardboard and their syringes littered the damp plywood floor as if the ceiling had rained heroin.

****

To say the least, heroin addiction is rampant in our city. Each day, people like Marionette become trapped in this web of addiction with no way out.

Sadly, resources are few for those who choose to get clean. The only hospital in our area with a detox unit is St. Peter's, and not only is the waiting list weeks long, it is very expensive, even for those who have insurance or Medicare. So where does that leave a homeless heroin addict who has no income, let alone insurance or health coverage?

Not all of these people are homeless; many of them are "everyday" people among us who have jobs, families and responsibilities. But it is obvious that these people would have to travel out of town in order to detox in a safe and secure environment. They would have to go down to Hooper Center in Portland or to Puget Sound Hospital in Tacoma, the two nearest detox units in the Northwest. Unfortunately, Hooper Center admits these patients on a "first come, first served" basis each morning. Most alcoholics are admitted immediately while some of the junkies are told to "maintain" until a spot opens for them. Basically this means to continue lying, stealing, and prostituting themselves for their daily fixes.

Another option for detoxing from heroin is methadone however there is at least a six-week waiting list for the clinic in Tacoma, and Olympia doesn't have a methadone clinic. One would have to travel each day to Tacoma or Seattle in order to buy her dosage. How would that work out for a heroin addict with a job and family?

So how can we solve this problem? The answer is simple. We can't continue turning our backs on these people as so many would like us to do. We need to face the problem by establishing a low income detox facility, with dual diagnosis for mental and physical addiction and a methadone clinic for those who chose the federally approved maintenance program.

No matter what your beliefs may be, wouldn't you like to see a community facility that would support these people in escaping their living hell?

Our community needs to realize that this isn't just a heroin addict's problem. It's everyone's problem. The people who become addicted are getting younger and younger because drug dealers are luring them into this suicidal lifestyle that is glamorized and romanticized in movies and books. The truth of the matter is that a heroin addict would be the first person to tell you that her life is not pretty. She wakes up in the morning feeling sick, withdrawal symptoms setting in, with her first thought being where to get a fix. Addicts are trapped in a life of thievery and risk, risk to their own lives, to their children's lives, the risk of overdosing, and the risk of contracting a disease from dirty needles.

****

Marionette stuffed T-bone steaks into her bag, being careful that no one would see her walk out the door of Safeway without paying. In an alley nearby, she sold them for a dollar each to people she had just met through her drug dealer. Now she had enough for her daily fix. All she needed was a clean needle. Searching through a garbage dumpster she found a clear plastic bag with two needles and other drug paraphernalia in it. Although there was blood residue on the inside of the syringes, she put them in her bag and headed towards her dealer's apartment.

****

Marionette could be your sister, your mother, your cousin, your best friend. No matter what your beliefs may be, wouldn't you like to see a community facility that would support these people in escaping their living hell? ■

(Fleetwood, cont.)

tions. LIHI eventually agreed to not use the Federal Building if another suitable site could be found. A former telephone switching building that had been vacant for years - the Fleetwood - was selected and the reconstruction of that building into 42 studio apartments for the homeless began. The general contractor, John Korsmo, used some homeless people as workers. The first residents move in September, 1997.

What might we learn from all this? Some business people came to understand they were not being reasonable or fair. Some business people who screamed that the Fleetwood residents would scare away their customers went out of business a year before there were any residents. Some homeless people, and their advocates, who were skeptical that anything would come out of all their work for housing are pleasantly surprised. Mayor Bob Jacobs, at a Fleetwood Advisory Board meeting in August, 1997, indicates that residents should be kept out of Sylvester Park by LIHI, and LIHI staff respond they cannot legally keep residents out of a public space.

The opening of the Fleetwood, then, is not the end of a story. It is a kind of milestone. Certainly for the first residents it is an important and meaningful one in their lives. We welcome these men and women and wish them well. Their struggle is our struggle. The effort to create a city that is an inclusive community goes on. We all need community and need to be part of its creation and protection.

Many people, including downtown business people and church people, who have been significant supporters of the Fleetwood, haven't been mentioned in this article. The Fleetwood and its residents continue to need your support. Thank you for hanging in there so far. A hug for Korey for her work with the community for community. And good luck to Lori and Ralph, the first staff of the Fleetwood.

We are all in this together. Let none be left behind. ■

"I'M A HUMAN BEING WHO WANTS TO LIVE, BUT NOT IN THE SNOT AND SHIT THEY GIVE..."--*crass*

Sharon X

Recently, I've moved to Olympia, and as I discovered that there are a lot of nice, sincere, people who work for change, I also discovered that as a small town, and not a lot of available work for young people, the businesses take complete advantages of those situations in discriminating people by the way they look, instead of their real work ethics. I looked for a job for a while and finally Burrito Heaven "did me a favor" in hiring me, and at the same time explained to me that I would have to wear a hat or a scarf all day by those big hot ovens, because my hair color wasn't the color the manager, Paul liked personally, he excused it by saying that it's not anything personal, but he fears for the families and the older people who come to Burrito Heaven to be intimidated by my looks. I took the insult knowing that he's a discriminating fool, but even $4.95 an hour before tax which was nothing, was more than I had, so I took the job, and kept job hunting for other jobs as I worked in the pits of hell. Burrito Heaven is owned by perverted, sick men, who verbally sexually abuse and probably even more (I only worked there for three weeks), but I wouldn't allow myself to be treated like a slave, and as nice as I kept being to the customers, and as the good of a worker I was, the management and me just didn't get along. What made Paul, the manager really mad is when one day, two older ladies came in the store, and as I was preparing their food for them, strands of orange hair came out of my hat, they liked my hair and asked to see it, but I said I wasn't allowed to, because the owner make me wear a hat. They simply didn't understand why the hell am I the only one wearing a hat, I mean, people dye their hair everyday to blonde or black and that's acceptable, what's the difference? They complained to the manager about the whole idiotic situation while I was on my break smoking a cigarette, and when I came back inside, the manager Paul glared at me because he couldn't accept that he was wrong. A week later to my surprise, I got dropped off of the schedule, the bastard (Paul) couldn't even tell me this to my face, but he kept going on with his contradictions when I called to tell him what I thought about him. I got fired for no reason. After the article in WIP about boycotting Burrito Heaven, I've heard from a former employee that the business doubled, and than I saw a letter in the Aug. issue of WIP, somebody was saying that they weren't really sure they were going to jump into this boycott if it doesn't come from the employees themselves, and is there to punish the establishment. To that person, and to all the other ones that are wondering: this is not about revenge, or about where it came from, it's about who you would want to give your money to, and as a former worker in Burrito Heaven, I would not want to give them my money for their over priced food, knowing that they're discriminating perverts, with a military attitude, would you?! It's your choice, but just note yourself that Burrito Heaven primarily wants to appeal to the families, and they don't care about the young people that come there (which is 50% of their customers), they had a note up when I was working there saying that if you look weird than you should try to be nicer to the families that come in there... who are they to sit on a pedestal and decide what's normal? Again, if you want to give your money to a judgmental, corrupted establishment, it's your choice!

...Maybe some day being your own self, wouldn't be considered a disability any longer!

A lot of places here won't accept you unless you look how they want you to, 'Dancing Goats' has a 'no hair coloring policy', I wonder if I dyed my hair black would they have cared? 'The Spar' just laughed at me when I walked in, they said they weren't accepting applications, but I knew they were lying, and I had someone more "normal looking" walk in, the middle aged white man who laughed at me with his buddy, handed him the application right away, and told him to call for an interview, because they're really looking for somebody. What's wrong with this picture? Our society puts too much emphasis on things that aren't important, or really valid. I don't know if a 'no discrimination' law would ever occur, but if we join in for the battle for our lives, and realize that changing for their benefit isn't the answer, if you won't be comfortable with yourself. The only thing we can do is stand true to what we believe in, and treat each other like human beings, and not like numbers with a stereotype on our forehead, maybe some day being your own self, wouldn't be considered a disability any longer! ■

Unionist Interview

Talking Labor with Bev Hermanson

Teresa Jennings and Sylvia Smith

The following interview was taken August 13, 1997. Bev Hernmanson is the director of Legislative and Political Action for the Washington Federation of State Employees.

Q: Do unions have a responsibility for working people in general or do unions exist only to insure raises, improve benefits and secure safe working conditions for their members?

I'm not sure that all unions look at representing non-union workers as we do. There isn't anything in statute that says we have to represent non-union members, but we have something that is called the *duty of fair representation* that we have taken seriously over the years. If there is someone who is in a bargaining unit who has some problems we do often take on cases of folks who are not members. We have to be careful because you can wear yourself out taking on cases of folks who don't pay dues. We have a new grievance and appeal procedure which in some cases we don't have to take on cases. We are very careful, however, to not exclude people that we are able to do something for and then we hope that they become active and that will be the reason that they do.

Q: What about participation in the broader union movement?

The way that we have been able to combat some of that and the way we have been able to get more people to participate is through education and through information. We have been trying very hard, I know the AFL-CIO and everybody has been trying very hard to do a better job of talking about our successes so people understand when we have been able to accomplish something for workers. So I think getting the information out to the public and doing a better job of educating the public about what unions actually do is the way we have been able to participate.

Q: A long-term problem for unions has been the anti-union messages communicated to the general population by the corporations primarily through the commercial media. What counteractions are you aware of that are currently being taken by unions with their memberships and the general public? What additional efforts do you think will be required?

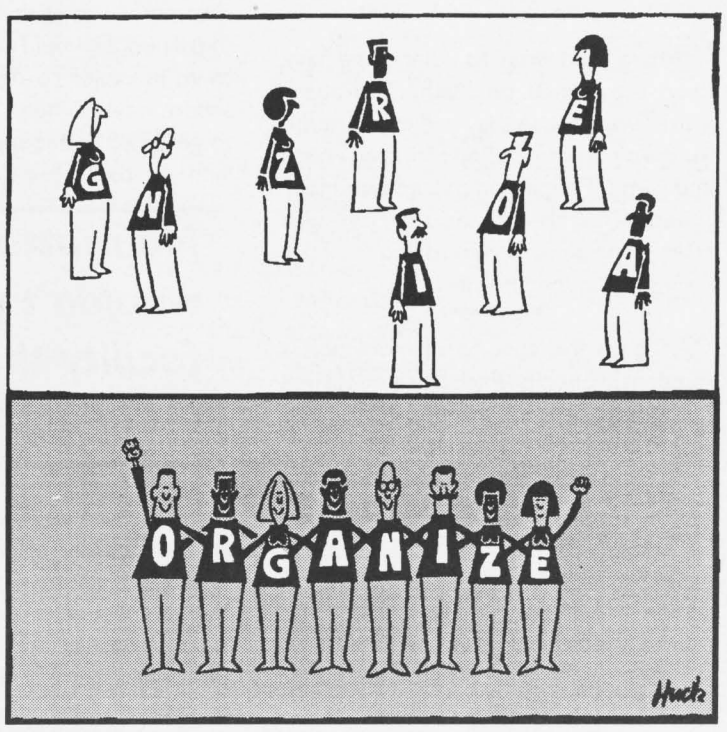
I think with the new leadership at the top of the AFL-CIO comes from organizations that have been more service oriented. They have been more inclined to work closely with their members. I was at the convention where the new leadership was elected. I was amazed, being from Washington State and being from AFSCME, which is a very democratic union organization, at what so many unions are made of. They're made of men, they are made of older men, they're made of older white men, and we didn't see a lot of workers participating through some of the unions. We went there to elect a new leadership. We took numbers and we took rank and file people. It was a shock to some of the old style leaders to see this group of people come in and have such a loud voice and be so participatory. Our decisions are made from the bottom up. The more that unions do that, the more people are going to see it and are going to be inclined to participate if they think someone is actually going to be listening to what they are saying and trying to make what they want happen. So having more to say, more reaching out to people, more educational programs.

The stuff they did on tv, they were criticized for some of the political stuff they did. On the other hand, they have come real close to making some real changes in this country. The more they keep doing that sort of thing the more likely they are going to make some changes. I think that is all information and education.

"There are a whole lot of people in state government who think you get raises because the legislators are nice people, but that isn't it how it works. They don't realize that it is because we are up there beating our heads against the wall."

Q: What methods are being used to get the information and education out?

One thing we do is in our [membership] newspaper. We try to talk about the successes. We talk about cases we're won and we talk about successful representation, if people get back pay or get rehired because they were fired incorrectly. We can get that kind of information out to people. So it's our newsletter, our internal member communications. I think the leadership, the shop stewards, the people who are actually on the shop floor with folks, the more we can get information out to them so that they can share it. I think that is the way we do it.



Q: How do you reach the general public?

One thing that we have done is a television show that we run every month on the free media stations. We try to publicize union members and union activities and try to give the general public a different perspective of what unions actually are. So that it is called *Our View*. It's a half hour t.v. show. We have actually got that showing in Europe, it has been shown in other states, it has been picked up by other unions who have looked at it and want to do something similar. We have gotten a lot of attention from other unions. We get calls from legislators who have seen that show and were surprised at something that was going on. We get phone calls all the time. To the extent that we can do those kinds of educational programs that depict unions and union members in a different light, I think that is important.

Q: What do you mean by different light?

A lot people see union members as maybe the thugs that fight with each other and that kind of thing. There were reasons that unions were the way they were, they had to be tougher. But unions are run by people who are honest, hard working people. There has been a perception that the unions were part of the mafia and all kinds of things because there were some things that happened. This is where we are changing peoples minds: unions are modern, unions have good ideas and unions actually want to make the work place better.

The thing that we have tried to do with the legislature is say, "we don't want to have bad workplaces where we're protecting workers who don't do their job. What we do want is for our members to have a say in how their jobs operate. They have the best ideas, you need to listen to them. We're trying to let people see that unions don't just protect bad workers. There's an attitude out there that that is what happens and that isn't our goal at all. Our goal is to make the entire work place better.

Bad workers don't make the workplace bad...

No. The other issue is that bad workers aren't bad workers because they are bad workers. If administrators and managers, whomever, would participate with their workers and would say, "This is not acceptable because..." If they would be a part of that all the time so that workers knew what they were supposed to do, then I think workers would be better. But what usually happens is that nobody wants to do anything that is unpleasant so that management lets things slide until they're in very bad shape. And then, they either fire somebody for all the wrong reasons or handle it incorrectly and then they come to the union for help. We win cases because management doesn't handle their job right. Its not because we want bad workers to be working. If everybody did their jobs appropriately, we wouldn't have some of those problems.

Q: What are currently the chief difficulties in organizing, in particular, state employees?

I think state employees are complacent. When we have rallies, we may have a thousand people to our rallies. The people who come to our rallies are the people who work in the institutions for the mentally disabled or developmentally disabled, people who work in the prisons, people who work in pretty tough worksites.

People who work in offices in Olym-

(Continued next page)

W.S.F.E.'s Our View

Our View is produced by the Washington Federation of State Employees with the creative talents of Chuck Boland (*That's the way the ball bounces*). This 15 minute show is currently broadcast on 17 cable stations in Washington State and three channels in Europe and airs twice weekly in Thurston County on TCTV.

In September, Our View covers the following:

- The UPS Strike in Washington State
- Richard Trumka and AFL-CIO's new television campaign
- "Union Summer" program
- Union History with Russ Reader

Mondays at 6 pm and Tuesdays at 10:30 am on Channel 3

(Labor, continued)

pia don't realize sometimes that their work place could be better or they are afraid to rock the boat a little, or maybe because they work with something that has to do with the legislature. As long as they don't have an awful worksite and they don't have awful bosses or whatever, people just tend to become complacent. I have heard people say over and over again, "Well, I have a job and my salary is not awful and the benefits are not bad and so I don't want to make anybody angry with me."

People are complacent and its hard to get them out of that mode, to show them that belonging to the union doesn't have to be a bad thing, it doesn't have to put you conflict with your employer. But it can help you to do things to really make your worksite better or your work life

"... belonging to the union doesn't have to be a bad thing, it doesn't have to put you conflict with your employer. It can help you to do things to really make your worksite or your work life better. "

better. Complacency is a hard thing. Many state employees don't know that they might be able to do better if they have representation.

Q: Do you think that state management give a negative message about unions to state employees?

They try to down play the union, they try to talk people out of it. They try to say that things are fine here, you don't need to do that. We have some of that. We have experienced some agencies that have been almost threatening with members to keep them from going as part of our union or to vote for a union shop. I don't know if that is a norm. I think people are a little bit afraid sometimes, but I think people are complacent.

We make phone calls, we tell them the sky is falling because this or that is going to happen. When we actually get up on the hill and begin to lobby things and we get some support here and there and maybe the sky doesn't fall and so people think that we're always going to do that and its getting harder and harder. But since the sky hasn't fallen yet people think that is not going to.

We need collective bargaining. If we had collective bargaining for state government and people could see that we got a contract for the people who are our members, that maybe is better than what everyone else has, then they would start to see the difference. The problem is when we lobby up on the hill for wages everybody gets what we are successful at. Most people don't realize this. There are a whole lot of people in state government who think you get raises because the legislators are nice people and that isn't it how it works. They don't really realize that it is because we are up there beating our heads against the wall.

Collective bargaining is the only way I can think of that we would differentiate between workers so that people could see what the union is able to accomplish collectively. If we had that it would really make a difference.

Q: What do you see in the future for working people?

If things don't change, I think it's bleak. I think the American workers are in very bad shape, if we don't do something to turn around the mentality that CEOs are fourteen times better than the worker on the shop floor. Things have gotten very, very bad and it will get worse unless we can do something to turn it around. I think the goal of the AFL-CIO now is to certainly to turn that around.

The UPS Strike is going to be very telling. If they're successful in that strike than I think corporations aren't going to take union workers and their unions so much for granted. Businesses and corporation say they're worried about their profit. Well, they are making plenty of money. They're making a lot of money. They want to make a lot more money, they want to pay their CEOs these huge salaries and do it by cutting workers. If this strike is successful its going to make a big difference.

The Boeing Strike, the fact that they hung in there when nobody thought that they would. It was over the holidays, Christmas time and people wouldn't go back to work. Boeing will probably think again before they do something that's going to create that kind of work stoppage. I think UPS because it is nationwide I think that's a real big one. We allow them (corporations) to pay these people exorbitant salaries and nobody does a anything about it. So it's more than profit. They're making enough money, it isn't just that. If we don't change it, it's going to be just awful, its going to get worse. Jobs will go over seas, or they go to Mexico or whatever.

Q: Is there anything you would like to say to state employees?

State employees should be sick and tired of the legislature leaving their wages to the last minute. They should be sick and tired of the fact that the legislature every two years does a salary survey that they then pay no attention. They should be sick and tired of the fact that there are people who are 30% behind their prevailing wage in the salary survey. They should be really concerned that institutions are being closed and the legislature is trying to contract out jobs. Everything thing seems to be based on the premise that state employees are second class citizens, that they are not hard workers. It think they should be really, really tired of that and I think they should become more militant.

They need collective bargaining and everybody should be fighting for it. We could negotiate new contracts, negotiate new working conditions and actually work at what is going on in state government and say we want to change this. If you'll help change this, we will give you whatever. It's a much more positive way to work. Everything is out in the open. There are something like 72 contracts that we never opened and renegotiated because there's no incentive, there's nothing for us to get for it. If we could bargain and we could say okay there isn't money for raises this year, but you haven't gotten an extra day off for a long time or we could give you bereavement leave so that if you lose a family member you could have time off.

We went to the legislature with a request for bereavement leave. There was a committee hearing and I had worked every committee member and when I talked to them, they were all going to vote for it, they thought it was a great idea. Well, then at the hearing they said to me, "So what would this cost? If you got bereavement leave, what difference would this make?" I said "Well, state employees get 2 extra days off a year if, in fact, they had a death in the family and they said, "Oh, well, we couldn't do that. We couldn't give them 2 extra days off." I said "They'd have to lose a family member to get 2 more days." "Oh no, we couldn't do that." I think that is immoral and I think we shouldn't put up with it anymore.

State employees really should be tired of watching tv or listening to the radio and having people make fun of public employees. They should want to do something to change their work life. They should want to participate in the union movement and make changes. I think they should be outraged at the image that is portrayed of them because that is not what the workers are like at all. ■

Washington Federation of State Employees

Brief Description of Organization

WFSE is 18,000 members strong with members in virtually every agency of state goverment. Any state employee may join the union regardless of his or her job classification.

What successes has WFSE accomplished in the last year?

- Stopped "Right to Work" legislation
- Stopped contracting out: specifically in Welfare Reform
- Passed Outside Employment Bill protecting some part-time employees' jobs
- Stopped ward closure at Western State Hospital
- Secured medical benefit increases
- Three percent salary increase effective July1, 1997 plus additional increases for specific job classes due to increased duties and responsibilities

On what issues is WFSE currently working?

- Remedy job classification inequities, especially in the lower paid categories
- Improve agency training
- Increase employee promotional opportunies
- Improve personnel rules, policies and procedures
- Protect the integrity of the Public Employees Retirement System
- Achieve and maintain salaries based on not less than prevailing rates for like jobs in private industry
- Collective bargaining

Contact people

General Information: Tim Welch, Director of Public Affairs

Organizing: Devone Smith, Deputy Director

Legislative and Political Action: Bev Hermanson, Director

Washington Federation of State Employees, 1212 Jefferson St SE, Ste 300, Olympia WA 98501. 1-800-562-6002, 360-352-7603

LABOR NEWS BRIEFS & UPDATES

Labor Day

"Celebrating Working People, Community and Social Justice"

September 1st, Sylvester Park
Noon - 5pm
downtown Olympia

- **Music, labor theater**
- **Dance performances**
- **Photo contest sponsored by the organizing committee of the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443**
- **Ethnic Food booths**
- **Hands-on children and adult activities**
- **Speech contest sponsored by Works In Progress**
- **Over 25 unions, social justice andcultural organizations represented**

Sponsored by: The Evergreen State College Labor Center, the Thurston/Lewis County Labor Council, the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443.

Olympia IWW

Organizing at Libros Sin Fronteras

Our organizing campaing at Libros Sin Fronteras, a local distributor of Spanish books, is right on track. The employer's challenge to the bargaining unit, in which he claimed that I was ineligible to vote in the union election due to my alleged supervisorial status, was defeated. Having accepted the inevitability of the election, the boss is now attempting to sway workers with anti-union propaganda written by a Seattle consulting firm. Our solidarity remains strong, however, and I believe we have the numbers to win this election hands down. We are already planning ahead for the contract negotiation stage. Ballots go out to employees and are due back in the NLRB's Seattle office by noon on September 2nd. Ballots will be counted at 2pm the same day, and the letter from the NLRB states that "all parties are entitled to be present at the ballot count, either in person or by a designated representative."

In a separate but related development, another member of our branch has filed a charge of unfair labor practice against Libros Sin Fronteras. FW Phipps was dismissed by Libros in what many believe was a retaliatory firing for her union activity.

Jess Grant

NATIONAL BOYCOTTS SANCTIONED BY THE AFL-CIO as of August 5, 1997

This list comprises the national boycotts endorsed by the national AFL-CIO in accordance with guidelines established by the AFL-CIO Executive Council. Requests for endorsements come from national or international unions. The boycotts were instituted by and are conducted by the unions noted in the descriptions. The national or international union can provide detailed information about the dispute and how other unions can offer solidarity. In addition, further background information is available from the Union Label and Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, at 815 16th Street, N.W., Suite 607, Washington, D.C. 20006; 202-628-2131.

Apparel & Accessories

MASTER APPAREL Men's and boys' pants. Labels include Botany 500, Hills and Archer, and Blair * Electronic Workers

Building Materials & Tools

BROWN & SHARPE MFG. CO. Measuring, cutting and machine tools and pumps * Machinists

ROME CABLE CORP. Cables used in construction and mining * Machinists

SOUTHWIRE CO. Commercial and industrial wire and cable; Do-It-Yourself brand homewire * Electrical Workers

Food & Beverages

CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES Table grapes that do not bear the UFW label on their carton or crate * Farm Workers

DIAMOND WALNUT CO. Diamond brand canned and bagged walnuts and walnut pieces * Teamsters

FARMLAND DAIRY MILK Farmland Dairy brand milk

TYSON/HOLLY FARMS CHICKEN Chicken and processed poultry products * Teamsters

Furniture

TELESCOPE CASUAL FURNITURE CO. Lawn, patio, other casual furniture Brand name: Telescope * Electronic Workers

Transportation & Travel

ALITALIA AIRLINES Air transport for passengers and freight * Machinists

CROWN CENTRAL PETROLEUM Gasoline sold at Crown, Fast Mart & Zippy Mart outlets * Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers

MICHELIN Michelin brand tires * Steelworkers

OGLEBAY PARK Wheeling, W.Va., park/resort/recreation complex * Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOTEL Four Points by Sheraton Hotel located in Waterbury, Connecticut * Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees

KAUAI RESORT Hotel in Kapaa, Hawaii * Longshoremen & Warehousemen

FRONTIER HOTEL Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada * Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees

NEW OTANI HOTEL & GARDEN Hotel in downtown Los Angeles * Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees

BEST WESTERN-GROSVENOR RESORT HOTEL Hotel located at Disney World, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida * Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees

Miscellaneous

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION BET cable television, Action pay-per-view, Bet on Jazz * Electrical Workers

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO. Cigarettes: Camel, Winston, Salem, Doral, Vantage, More, Now, Century, Best Value, Magna, Monarch, Eclipse, Sterling; and all Moonlight Tobacco products * Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers

PCUN Update

NORPAC Growers Step-Up Repression

P C U N -- Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United Issue #29 Oregon's Farmworker Union July '97

As our field organizing expanded from seven **NORPAC Farms** in two counties to fifteen farms in three counties, and as the Field Accompaniment program brought greater scrutiny than ever, growers retaliated by blocking access, ordering arrests, increasing threats, plowing under crops, closing camps, and attacking organizers or abetting attacks by their agents. Even so, workers at six NORPAC farms won pay increases in the strawberry harvest.

The Accompaniment program proved a major success, attracting 300 supporters to see conditions first-hand, demonstrating to workers tangible support for their concerns and grievances, and generating independent documentation for Boycott and related campaigns. Church members and leaders who answered the call to "stand with farmworkers" helped lead opposition to repeal of EMO's Boycott endorsement.

Clergy arrested, organizers assaulted

Brooks-area NORPAC growers Jerry Ditchen (who paid $10,500 for wage violations in September) and Glen Zielinski (site of a major 1995 strawberry harvest strike) each posted guards at their labor camps 14 hours a day. On June 3rd, 5th, and 6th, sheriff's deputies made a total of ten arrests, all for trespass, including Rev. Rebecca Hazen, a Presbyterian minister and Ed Brandt, a Lutheran pastor. The District Attorney later dropped all charges. On June 3rd, Ditchen's and Zielinski's labor contractor, Jose Ramirez, assaulted PCUNistas Juan Castaneda and Dave King in front of workers and Rev. Hazen. Deputies refused to view video tape of the attack, investigate, arrest or cite Ramirez. Instead, they arrested Juan, Dave, and Rev. Hazen!

Special recognition goes to field organizers, Victor Alvarez, Rose Baz, Frank Byers, Juan Castaneda, Bayla Ostrach, Kevin Golding, to the Oregon Farmworker Ministry, to Jon Brier, Tracy Maier, Dave King, and to the National Farmworker Ministry's Maggie Koehler.

The unprecedented and illegal interference with religious access prompted Oregon Farmworker Ministry to organize a special ecumenical service on June 17th at Zielinski's camp. As the 20 clergy and lay representatives walked into the camp, the labor contractor and camp guard delivered a letter, purportedly from the workers, stating that they did not want PCUN or religious representatives to visit. Once in the camp, the delegation encountered only one objector: the camp manager. Soon, six sheriff's squad cars and the canine unit arrived to surround the prayer gathering conducted with camp residents, to video and photograph them, and interrupt the service to argue about the "line between religious and political speech". This time, no arrests were made. Workers invited the delegation to return. Thereafter, clergy delegations visited camps weekly.

Workers assert grievances

* 35 workers at Kauer Farms in Yamhill County defied grower threats, openly invited PCUN organizers into the labor camp and, with organizers' assistance, prepared and submitted complaints about the 100% rent increase, no hot water and no drinking water.

* 31 workers at Coleman Farms are challenging a new $25 cleaning fee and rent increase charged to all camp residents (read: minimum wage take-back).

* At four NORPAC farms, workers consistently took breaks when PCUN organizers and observers were present. (Farmworkers are exempt from rules requiring paid breaks.)

Field organizers found numerous of minimum wage violations in piece-rate work. Organizing pressure led a few growers to pay some claims without legal action, but most workers have thus far been too afraid to file claims. Organizing continues through September and more workers will likely decide to step forward.

Special recognition goes to field organizers, Victor Alvarez, Rose Baz, Frank Byers, Juan Castaneda, Bayla Ostrach, Kevin Golding, to the Oregon Farmworker Ministry, to Jon Brier, Tracy Maier, Dave King, and to the National Farmworker Ministry's Maggie Koehler.

We are publishing a special 36-page report of selected testimonies from the Field Accompaniment program. Contact Leone Bicchieri at PCUN to order a copy. ■

Labor, Politics, and the Co-optation of the Working Class

Jess Grant

"Resolved, that to the end of promoting industrial unity...the IWW refuses all alliances, direct and indirect, with existing political parties or anti-political sects."

Constitution of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

The IWW was founded in 1905 with the purpose of creating a federation of industrial unions capable of "everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown." The role of political action in achieving that goal was the source of much debate during the union's first few years of existence. Eugene Debs' Socialist Party and Daniel DeLeon's Socialist Labor Party had both participated in the founding of the IWW, and the original Preamble reflected their preference for a dual strategy of political and industrial action. It wasn't long before tensions arose within the union concerning this issue of political action. To many it appeared that the political parties were more interested in using the IWW to recruit members than they were in actually furthering the organization's goal of working class emancipation. When delegates at the 1907 convention changed the Preamble by removing any reference to political action, the DeLeonist faction bolted.

This policy of non-engagement in the political realm has helped to preserve the independence of the IWW for more than ninety years. Though the IWW remains a small union, isolated in many respects from the mainstream of the U.S. labor movement, its autonomy cannot be questioned. Unlike the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), which represents the majority of unionized American workers, the IWW is not in the back pocket of the Democratic Party (or any other party for that matter). This article shall explore the danger to unions posed by their affiliation with political parties, using as an example the case study of Mexico's largest labor federation (CTM) and its ties to the ruling PRI party.

The ties between the Mexican government and organized labor go back to the founding of the modern Mexican state. In an effort to shore up his fledgling "revolutionary" government against the continuing assaults from Villa's troops to the north and Zapata's agraristas to the south, President Carranza made strategic overtures to the union leaders of his day. Carranza sent General Obreg n to negotiate with the union leaders of Mexico City. Promising them progressive legislation, Obreg n got the leaders to support Carranza by forming "red battalions." Though many of these workers later crossed over to fight for Zapata or Villa, the battalions were nonetheless an important element of Carranza's successful bid to retain power.

The payoff came in 1917 with the drafting of the new Constitution, which supposedly gave workers unprecedented rights. Article 123 of the Mexican Constitution was "the most progressive piece of labor legislation in any country of the world of 1917." Unfortunately, Mexico lacked the economic conditions and political will to enforce Article 123. The businessmen who surrounded Carranza simply ignored the legislation, for they were more interested in building an industrial economy they could control than ameliorating social conditions.

This interdependent relationship between labor and the Mexican government became institutionalized when President Calles attempted to consolidate the power of his clique by forming a political party called the PNR. The party's structure was designed to resolve long-standing difficulties concerning policy formation and presidential succession, and not coincidentally, perpetuate Calles in power. It was reorganized in 1937 as the PRM, and in 1946 the PRM became today's PRI.

Labor organizers brought tens of thousands of workers into the PRI's labor sector, most of them affiliated with the largest federation, the CTM. The CTM continued to build its base and dominate labor sector politics through the 40s and 50s, but increasingly favored a policy of collaboration with government and industry to hasten economic development. This growing conservatism led to the more militant unions dropping out of the CTM federation.

The role of political action in achieving that goal was the source of much debate during the union's first few years of existence.

The CTM is also plagued by a system of cronyism called continuismo. Real union democracy is virtually unknown. Until his death earlier this year, Fidel Velßzquez had headed up the CTM since the 1940's, and was cited by many as a prototypical Mexican labor leader - "unresponsive, oligarchical, and often corrupt." Local union leaders are appointed by officials at the state and national level, making it nearly impossible for rank and file unionists to replace bad leadership.

"Old guard CTM leaders...became a moneyed elite in their own right. Many amassed personal fortunes so large that their interests began to coincide more with those of big business than with the working class."

Naturally, strikes and other labor militancy declined as the unions became an instrument of the state, and real wages went steadily down as "Don Fidel" of the CTM and other labor leaders did their best to keep wage demands in check. Their role was transformed - "instead of bargaining for concessions to labor, they worked to assure labor support for the government." They became "an ally of management rather than a countervailing force in economic life."

Velßzquez was born in 1900. He started out his labor career by organizing a milkman's union, and later helped found the CTM under Cßrdenas' administration. He was elected CTM's secretary in 1941 and served in that position until his death earlier this year. In the minds of the CTM's five million members and most Mexicans, the CTM and Don Fidel are inextricably linked. He dealt with 14 different Mexican presidents over the course of his tenure at the helm of the CTM. He appeared to be such an immovable fixture of the Mexican labor scene that some people compared him to the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover.

There are countless examples of the CTM leadership's treachery. In 1990, the Modelo Brewery Workers' Union ousted their CTM-appointed leaders and elected their own executive board. Though relatively well-paid by Mexican standards, the workers had seen their buying power halved through the eighties. They drafted a new set of contract demands that included a long-overdue wage increase, retirement for anyone after thirty years of service, and improvements in health and safety conditions. After initial negotiations proved fruitless, the union struck the plant in Mexico City, taking great care to observe Mexican labor law.

Official reaction was swift and unequivocal. A Federal arbitration board declared the strike illegal and Velßzquez agreed, threatening to replace the strikers with CTM-supplied scabs. The union voted to continue the strike anyway, and appealed to the labor courts for protection. Other unions and community groups were drawn into the struggle, including a group of housewives, the bus drivers' union, Chicago Teamsters, and Chrysler auto workers.

When a committee of Brewery Workers went to visit Don Fidel, he refused to see them because they were accompanied by an attorney who he claimed was in the service of an opposition political party. A court briefly overturned the declaration branding the strike illegal, but demanded a one billion peso bond from the union. In a tremendous show of solidarity, working people throughout Mexico raised this incredible sum, only to have the strike again declared illegal.

On March 16, 1990, Velßzquez created a new brewery workers' union and appointed a new executive committee. Two days later riot police attacked the strikers' encampments in front of the plant, using clubs and firehoses to drive them out. The plant supposedly reopened with new workers, but journalists reported that it was empty. By April the company had to admit that sales had in fact fallen off sharply.

In the course of a press conference celebrating his 90th birthday, Velßzquez outlined the conspiracy that he believed was behind the "adventurism" of the brewery workers. He declared that the Modelo strikers were supported by U.S. breweries, and that the opposition parties which he had already accused of fomenting the strike were sponsored by drug dealers. In short, Don Fidel did everything he could to discredit the strikers, causing one worker to state "we're CTM members, but Fidel has turned his back on us." Though they had begun their strike by affirming their loyalty to the CTM and the PRI, these workers were now so furious with the entire system of Mexican labor relations that, on April 14th, they burned Velßzquez and others in effigy.

The collaboration of the CTM with the Mexican employing class is well-documented. In this country, the history of the AFL-CIO is linked in a similar fashion to the Democratic Party, though their institutional ties are not as formal as those between the PRI and CTM. Such political affiliations only serve to divide union members, as recently illustrated by the Washington state educators who sued their union to stop its support of the Democratic Party with their dues money. I believe that further research will support the thesis that political affiliation inevitably leads unions to abandon the principles of class struggle they were founded on.

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(Solomon,continued)

as in the boardroom, the bottom line is the bottom line. So much for public interest and democracy. If the book has any shortcomings, it's that the essays are long on evidence but a bit short on explication. The brief columns, which average only about 1,000 words, generate plenty of heat, but not quite enough light. They tell us much about what, but not enough about why and how. For example, how has the incessant paean to the bottom line affected the labor of news work in the trenches - such as low pay, shrinking staffs, and the steady encroachment of infotainment, to name a few. And to what degree has journalism's own cult of objectivity inadvertently eased the corporate takeover of what young idealists still call the Fourth Estate? Certainly the authors' underlying assumptions about the depredations and corruptions of power are on target, but not all journalists are powerful or corrupt. Many could even be (and have been) called progressive. Nevertheless, the institutional configurations of corporate media do succeed in subverting the best intentions of many journalists. How? But lest these questions sound churlish in the face of Solomon and Cohen's thorough and thoughtful work, let me conclude by saying that the book documents in remarkable detail how many journalists, and certainly most institutions of journalism, are not well-intentioned. One of the more shocking admissions they document is from a 1988 speech by then Washington Post owner Katherine Graham at CIA headquarters. "We live in a dirty and dangerous world," Graham said. "I believe democracy flourishes when the government can take legitimate steps to keep its secrets and when the press can decide whether to print what it knows." Good thing she wasn't on the Hutchins Commission.

Lisbeth Lipari is a professor of communications at Portland State University. ■

National Labor Has Focused on Detroit Newspaper Strike

Daymon Hartley

Estimates of over 100,000 former striking Detroit newspaper workers and their supporters from throughout the US and Canada marched and rallied Saturday, June 21, to show that the workers' struggle with the newspapers continues.

The march came a day after an administrative law judge ruled that the 19-month strike was caused by unfair labor practices and that the newspapers must take the workers back even if it means displacing replacement scabs.

Six union locals representing about 2,500 workers were forced out on strike July 13, 1995, against the Free Press, The Detroit News, and Detroit Newspapers Inc., which runs the papers' business and production operations under a joint operating agreement.

Union members were forced by their leaders to make an unconditional offer to return to their jobs and technically ended the strike Feb. 14. The newspapers accepted the offer five days later. The unions contend that the newspapers in effect rejected that offer because of the newspapers' vow to retain their 1,200 replacement scabs, thus making few jobs immediately available for returning strikers. Only 200 of the 2,000 have been called back to work. This has in effect created a lockout situation for those not returned.

Among union allegations involved in Judge Thomas Wilks' ruling Friday were that management bargained unfairly by improperly imposing a merit pay plan on News employees before negotiations had reached an impasse, and that the News reneged on an agreement to bargain jointly with all six locals on economic issues.

But newspaper officials said they will not implement Judge Wilks' ruling because they will appeal it to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. Appeals by either side could take years, officials have said.

The News is owned by Gannett Co. Inc. and the Detroit Free Press by Knight-Ridder Inc. Detroit Newspapers Inc. runs the papers' business and production operations under a joint operating agreement.

The unions contend that the newspapers in effect rejected that offer because of the newspapers' vow to retain their 1,200 replacement scabs, thus making few jobs immediately available for returning strikers.

Before the march, hundreds of union supporters rallied at the police department in Sterling Heights, a suburb where Detroit Newspapers has a printing plant that has been the target of protests, and outside the Grosse Pointe Farms home of Frank Vega, chief executive officer of Detroit Newspapers.

Newspaper officials plan to appeal Friday's unfair labor practices ruling to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. That and possible later appeals by either side could take years, officials have said The focus now shifts to the newspaper unions' request for the NLRB to seek an injunction to immediately restore jobs for all non-fired union newspaper workers who want them.

If the NLRB seeks and wins such an injunction, the companies would appeal at once to block the order. ■

Wizards of Media Oz: Behind the Curtain of Mainstream News, by Norman Solomon & Jeff Cohen. Common Courage Press, 1997.

Reviewed by Lisbeth Lipari

The media have certainly changed in the 50 years since the Hutchins Commission 1947 Freedom of the Press Report stunned publishers and broadcast bigwigs with biting and eloquent criticism. Noting that the First Amendment was "intended to guarantee free expression, not to create a privileged industry," the 12-member commission warned how concentrations of media ownership and the proliferation of un-named sources in the news could eventually undermine democracy in the U.S. As the journalist A.J. Liebling once observed, "the function of the press in society is to inform, but its role is to make money."

Media profits have fueled a phenomenal concentration of media ownership, which despite the Hutchins report and anti-trust laws, have largely been ignored by the Justice Department. For example, in 1920 there were 2,400 daily papers in the U.S.; today there are 1,600, 80 percent of which are chain-owned by a handful of corporations. Our own Oregonian, for instance, started out as an independent paper but is today owned by Newhouse, a company that owns over 25 other papers as well as Random House and Conde Naste publications.

Bagdikian estimates that by the year 2000, nearly all U.S. media will be in the hands of six conglomerates - including Time/Warner/Turner, Capital Cities/ABC/Disney, General Electric/NBC and CBS/Westinghouse. Which leads to the point in our story where we breathe a collective sigh and thank Clio, the Greek Muse of history, for the independent media, which brings us the likes of Norman Solomon and Jeff Cohen. In Wizards of Media Oz: Behind the Curtain of Mainstream News, their third collection of incisive media criticism, Solomon and Cohen take on such Orwellian shibboleths as the "liberal media," "public broadcasting," and "investigative journalism." In several dozen short essays, Solomon, a nationally syndicated columnist, and Cohen, founder and executive director of Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (publisher of the magazine EXTRA!), bring a wealth of facts, figures, and questions to their critiques of media performance. Why, they ask, is it alarming for Democrats and Republicans to take huge corporate contributions, but fine for Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings, and Dan Rather to be paid millions every year by General Electric, Disney, and Westinghouse? And why is the $286 million annually used to support public broadcasting any more of a waste than the $200 million spent yearly on military bands? As far as investigative journalism goes, they ponder how one of the biggest stories of the decade - the rapidly diminishing corporate share of the tax burden from 32 percent in 1952 to 10 percent today - has gone virtually unnoticed in the mainstream press.

Over and over they demonstrate how in the newsroom, as in the boardroom, the bottom line is the bottom line. So much for public interest and democracy.

While the authors correct erroneous or absent reporting on a wide range of contemporary issues including downsizing, sweatshops, hate/talk radio, managed health care, affirmative action, the CIA-Crack connection, and human rights, the book's overarching theme deals with the complacency, conservatism, and corporate collaboration of mainstream media. Over and over they demonstrate how in the newsroom,

(Continued previous page)

The Detroit Newspaper Strike

Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions

An unfair labor practice strike: More than 2,000 workers were on strike to protest illegal unfair labor practices by newspaper executives. The National Labor Relations Board says company officials "caused and prolonged" the strike by failing to bargain in good faith, reneging on negotiated agreements, and illegally threatening to "permanently replace" striking workers.

How much profit is enough? In previous contract negotiations, unions agreed to wage freeze and job cuts to help the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press return to profitability. As a result, the two papers earned $56 million in 194 for their corporate parents, Gannett and Knight Ridder. Instead of building on this success, company officials came to the bargaining table in 1995 demanding further cutbacks.

Job shifts, not job cuts: Company executives say the newspapers have "too many" workers. But management negotiators did not ask for the elimination of one single job during contract talks. Instead, they demanded the right to shift work away from family-wage jobs into non-union positions with lower pay, less benefits, and no job security.

Whose bed is getting feathered? While demanding austerity from unionized employees in Detroit, top corporate officials continue to pad their own pay packets. Tony Ridder, CEO of Miami-based Knight Ridder, received a 17% base pay increase in 1995, from $625,000 per year to $725,000. John Curley, chairman of Virginia-based Gannett, saw his base pay stay "stagnant" at $800,000 per year, but he did enjoy a 13% boost in his cash bonus, which rose from $562,000 in 1994 to $637,000 in 1995.

The community reacts: More than 250 religious, community and civic leaders have taken part in civil disobedience to protest management actions during the strike; more than 800 religious leaders have pledged not to buy either paper until the strike is settled; and hundreds of thousands of people have cancelled their subscriptions.

Federal Judge Turns Down Injunction Request!

by Jerry Gordon

On August 14, 1997, U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara issued a ruling denying the petition for an injunction reinstating locked out

(Continued previous page) 19

The Time To Stop FAST TRACK is Now

Michael MacSems

If Clinton and his corporate sponsors have their way, the people of the United States will soon be railroaded into an expanded NAFTA and a era of corporate rights without responsibilities. The engine for this "free trade" roller coaster is known as "fast track." It is up to the American people to make sure that this train never leaves the station.

Following the August congressional recess, President Clinton will be asking Congress to reinstate fast track authority. Fast Track is a Nixon era statute that delegates authority from Congress to the executive branch to negotiate foreign trade agreements. Congress' role is limited to an up or down vote and 20 hours of debate (see accompanying Public Citizen article). Although fast track has been around for over 20 years, each authorization has a built-in expiration date, and the authorization that carried the current NAFTA and GATT/WTO through Congress in the early nineties expired two years ago. Clinton, leader of the Free Market World, claims that he needs fast track to bring Chile into NAFTA and negotiate a slippery new "trade" deal called the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Both deals are expected to be completed by next Spring. If Congress refuses to limit its constitutionally ordained powers to represent the electorate, Clinton and his henchmen and women in the US Trade Representative's Office (USTR) will have a difficult time subordinating the public interest to corporate interest, when hundreds of legislators get to have their say on each line of the agreements.

In future issues of Works In Progress I plan to discuss the reasons why an expanded NAFTA and MAI are bad ideas for the majority of us. However right now it is imperative to stop fast track. The light of day and public debate may well go along way to, at minimum, curb the greatest excesses of these so called trade agreements. However, very little daylight can shine in on 20 hours of Congressional debate. Some of you may remember the frustration that surround the count down to the NAFTA and GATT/WTO votes. Unlimited debate, and the ability of Congress to modify the agreements could have two possible effects short of an outright no vote. Either the agreements could have been modified to address areas of concern such as jobs, the environment, and jurisdictional concerns, or the whole debate could have devolved into a political "train wreck," derailed by dozens of irreconcilable parochial interest. Either of these results would have been better that what we got, and more importantly, what we are likely to get in the future if fast track goes through. Without fast track the Executive Branch fears that it will lose control of the debate. And control seems to be what it is about, hundreds of good and bad trade agreements have been negotiated without fast track; indeed only five trade agreements have actually used fast track .

If Clinton and his corporate sponsors have their way, the people of the United States will soon be railroaded into an expanded NAFTA and a era of corporate rights without responsibilities.

"Olympia No Fast Track" is an ad hoc group formed to create an awareness in our representatives that a lot of vocal constituents are either very concerned about, or flatly opposed to fast track. The corporate press has been doing a good job of instilling the idea that globalization is inevitable. Globalization is not inevitable! Cynical despair and defeatist language play into the hands of corporate power. As you read this, Clinton is attempting to dazzle newly elected representatives with presidential phone calls and White House visits. There are enough progressives in the Olympia area to create a loud and assertive noise. Call your representatives today! Don't delay! Anyone interested in doing even a little more than making a call to Congress, can call me at (360) 754-9585. There is a particular need for canvassers.

NEW TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR CONGRESS: 1-888-723-5246. Use it! Spread it around. We should jam the House phone lines.

DIRECT NUMBERS: ($.14 per minute if dialed before 8:00 AM,)

Linda Smith....202-225-3536, (Lacey Office... 360- 923-9393)

Patty Murray....202-224-32621

Slade the Blade....202-224-3441 ■

What Is FAST TRACK And How Does It Work?

Public Citizen

The term "fast track" is used to refer to several related procedures used for certain trade negotiations and for congressional consideration of some trade agreements that were devised by President Richard Nixon and are codified at 19 U.S.C. 2191, 2192, 2902 and 2903 which taken together:

Delegates authority from the legislative branch (which has exclusive constitutional authority over regulation of foreign commerce) to the executive branch allowing the executive branch to conduct trade negotiations and sets in advance of negotiations the terms for congressional consideration of any resulting trade agreement, requiring:

- Congress to vote only "yes" or "no" with absolutely no amendments allowed on a completed trade agreement and the implementing legislation required to bring all existing U.S. laws and policies into conformity with such an agreement, and
- Maximum of 20 hours of floor debate in each chamber.
- Such a vote must occur within 60 legislative days after the agreement and implementing legislation are presented to Congress by the Executive branch.
- Not only the actual agreement, but the domestic implementing legislation is written by the Executive branch bypassing regular congressional committee procedures, such as mark ups. Statutory references for specific fast track provisions: No amendments to the implementing legislation or the trade agreement are permitted under the fast-track procedures is 19 U.S.C. 2191(d). The 60 day voting requirement consists of two aspects contained at 19 U.S.C. 2191(e): The congressional committees to which the implementing bill is referred have only 45 legislative days to review it but without any changes, at which time it is automatically referred to the full House, and a floor vote must then be taken within 15 legislative days.In calculating the time periods for action in either chamber, the days on which that House is not in session are excluded. 19 U.S.C. 2191(e)(3). The limitation of debate to not more than 20 hours, divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the legislation is 19 U.S.C. 2191(f)(2) & (g)(2).

...fast track forces us to swallow many smaller bitter pills in the name of a greater good accomplished by the whole deal.

Unique Limitations on Congressional Authority, Role in Trade Policy

Nowhere else do such severe limitations of congressional authority exist in U.S. law. For instance, while certain budget votes are granted closed rules automatically and in advance, such votes are on bills shaped by Congress that have undergone extensive congressional committee process.

Supporters of the fast track concept argue that Congress must give up the right to regular committee process and floor amendments on trade agreements to provide U.S. trade negotiators with credibility that the terms they negotiate with other countries won't be re-opened by Congress. By banning any amendments and also strictly limiting Congress' role in overseeing actual negotiations, fast track supporters argue that the procedures force Congress into accepting hard compromises made in one area of negotiation needed to make gains in others. According to this notion, fast track forces us to swallow many smaller bitter pills in the name of a greater good accomplished by the whole deal.

Opponents of fast track argue that Congress must have a greater role in U.S. trade and investment policy given the direct, domestic impact such policies will have on their constituents. Additionally, opponents have voiced concern that U.S. negotiators do not necessarily represent the full range of U.S. interests at the negotiating table. Some argue that the diffuse, but vital interests in good jobs and high wages shared by most Americans are subsumed to narrower, more strongly articulated interests of major corporations and investors. The role of such corporations is institutionalized in fast track, as that law also establishes advisory committees staffed with over 500 corporate representatives to give private sector input in exchange for Congress giving up its previous greater involvement in trade policy. Lawsuits by Public Citizen against the lack of balance in the fast track trade advisory committee system since 1992 have resulted in token representation of a few citizens' organizations in these committees.

Congressional concern about fast track's limitation of a congressional role in trade and investment policy has grown considerably since the 1993 passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the 1994 passage of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT.) These agreements contained lengthy provisions directly affecting U.S. domestic investment, environmental, labor and consumer standards laws and their implementing legislation specifically changed hundreds of provisions in such laws. Thus, these agreements' results, unlike the results of past trade agreements focussing on tariff or quota reduction, have had direct and personal effects on many Americans in areas for which they hold their Members of Congress accountable.

As well, fast track allows many matters unrelated to trade to be "superglued" onto trade legislation. Because no amendments are allowed, Congress is thus forced into rejecting entire trade agreements or approving special deals and unsavory amendments. For instance, the GATT implementing legislation included: unrelated provisions changing important U.S. pension laws including a special deal for a particular company that has been protested by many senior citizens; tax breaks to certain interests, special access to communications licenses for several specific companies, controversial changes in the U.S. Savings Bond Program, new requirements for electronic tax filing and many more.

Some Members of Congress have begun to argue that the Legislative and executive branches should redesign their cooperation in the area of international trade and investment to provide a more balanced role for Congress. Given that the regulation of international commerce is Congress' constitutional role, Congress has the power to redesign such a relationship according to how much au-

(Continued next page)

MAKE NIKE PLAY FAIR!

The Olympia Movement For Justice and Peace is writing to you to inform and invite you to an upcoming event in our area. The NIKE Golf Tour is coming through Olympia again this year. Last year, the Tournament's first year, was met with a sizable demonstration. It was the first time a NIKE Tour Event had been targeted as an opportunity to put pressure on NIKE to change its business practices in the Third World and to educate the general public about NIKE's exploitation of children and women through the use of contract labor. We gained local, regional, and national press exposure for the event. Undoubtably, our message was heard, and it had to have been heard by those who needed to hear it: NIKE.

Sadly, a year later, the issues remain the same. Over the course of the last year NIKE has come under increasing pressure from the public as demonstrations are held regularly at their NIKETOWNs and at other NIKE events including their sports sponsored NIKE Tours.

Even more sadly, NIKE is looking into moving its headquarters from Oregon and displacing the workforce already there for the sake of profit. One of the states it is looking at is Washington, and one of the cities it is looking at is Olympia. Just as multinational corporations play countries off one another for the lowest cost, this is clearly a move to play states off each other (and cities) in order to get tax write-offs. Why does a billion-dollar company need to be subsidized by our nation, any state, or OUR communities?

Now more than ever, OMJP wants to keep up the pressure and force NIKE to meet the demands set forth by JUSTICE: DO IT NIKE! Corporate tyranny cannot go unabated, either here in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world. We can't let any opportunity a multinational corporation comes to town slip by unnoticed. We will be there. And we want you to stand with us in opposition to NIKE.

WHY NIKE?

In 1984 the last of Nike athletic shoe manufacturing plant was moved from the United States to the Pacific Rim. In the process 65,000 workers in those plants lost their jobs. The Nike advantage in moving to the Philippines, South Korea, Indonesia and now China and Vietnam was cheap labor. While Nike workers in the U.S. were paid between $8 and $11 an hour, Nike found it more profitable to go where the pay was $2.60 for a ten hour day as in Indonesia. Of course the price for their shoes did not decline correspondingly. There is also less regulation of working conditions in these countries, and Nike can get away with child labor, physical and sexual abuse of workers, and wage violations.

Public pressure has focused on Nike because of the documented cases of worker treatment; in the June 1996 LIFE magazine, renowned journalist Sydney H. Schanberg recorded Nike's use of child labor: "Children are not only the easiest to intimidate, they're also the cheapest workers. Twelve-year-old Tariq, one of thousands employed in Pakistan's soccer ball industry, which produces five million balls a year for the US market, stitches leather pieces in Mahotra. He earns 60 cents a ball, and it takes most of a day to make one."

On March 16, 1996 the New York Times interviewed workers at a Nike factory in Serang, Indonesia who organized to ask for better wages. The workers had been fired. Tongis Situmorang, was "locked in a room at the plant and interrogated for seven days by the military, which demanded to know more about his labor activities."

NIKE IN INDONESIA

More than a third of Nike's products are manufactured in Indonesia.

In order to attract foreign investment, like Nike, the Indonesia minimum wage was deliberately set below the subsistence level.

Nike workers at sweatshops in Indonesia are only paid $2.20 a day. It took workers four years of often violent struggle to get the minimum wage up to that subsistence level.

Nike has chosen to operate its factories in a country where according to Human Rights Watch/Asia "workers lack the most basic rights, the right to freedom of association. That right is restricted by the effective prohibition of unions...the constant interference of the military in labor negotiations and the harassment, arrest, torture, and even murder of labor organizers."

NIKE IN VIETNAM

According to a March, 1997 Vietnam Labor Watch survey, over 90% of the Nike workers in Vietnam are women. A uniform complaint among the women interviewed was that they were not being paid a livable wage. The daily wage is approximately $1.60 and the cost of three simple meals is $2.10 per day. The women said that they literally have to make a daily choice between eating a balanced meal or paying rent for the single rooms that most of them rent out.

The treatment of workers by the factory managers is a constant source of humiliation. It was found that verbal abuse and sexual harassment are frequent, and corporal punishment is often used.

Several factory rules in place violate sensibilities and indeed, human dignity. Workers cannot go to the bathroom more than once per 8-hour shift and they cannot drink water more than twice per shift. Forced and excessive overtime to meet high quotas is currently the norm at Nike factories. Many health and safety standards in Vietnam are ignored by Nike factories.

♦ Pay workers in Nike-contracted factories a fair, liveable wage.

♦ Allow independent monitoring of factories, as requested by Development and Peace, and as agreed to by The Gap Clothing in El Salvador.

♦ Support workers' right to organize for better wages and working conditions and stop allowing military suppression of strikes.

♦ Cease using child labor.

♦ Settle worker past claims and disputes and investigate every instance of abuse.

WHERE DO YOUR DOLLARS GO

For a pair of shoes costing $80 in the U.S., labor accounts for $2.60 of the total cost, a little more than one worker's day wage.

Phil Knight's salary at Nike is approximately $864,583, and his bonuses for 1995 were about $787,500. This, of course, does not include his Nike stock which is worth $4.5 billion.

Michael Jordan is paid $20 million a year to advertise Nike products.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Don't Buy Nike Products: Nike is the biggest shoe manufacturer in America. If we can change Nike's labor practices, other shoe manufacturers will be forced to improve theirs.

Join a Nike Protest: Protests happen regularly in Olympia, Seattle, Portland, and elsewhere.

The next one in Olympia is Sunday, October 5th!

Send a Letter to President Clinton: Tell him that we need his help in asking Nike to address these labor issues in Asia and elsewhere as well as to provide some forms of compensation to workers who have suffered many months of wage cheating. Send to: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave Washington DC 20500

Send a Letter to Nike's CEO, Phil Knight: Tell Mr. Knight that you are unhappy with their labor practices. Ask Mr. Knight to accept independent monitoring, accept a living wage standard and expand Nike's Code of Conduct. Include a pair of Nike shoes if you can for emphasis. Send to: Nike Corporation, Nike World Headquarters, One Bowerman Dr., Beaverton, OR 97005, or call 1-800-EGG-NIKE ■

JOIN US TO PROTEST NIKE

at the end of the tournament

Sunday, October 5, 1997

Indian Summer Country Club

(Yelm Highway & College St., Olympia)

Carpools leaving Value Village @ noon

Call 705-2726 for more info

(Fast Track, cont.)

thority it decides to delegate away to the Executive branch.

Fast Track As A Congressional Delegation Of Authority To Negotiate

The best way to think about how fast track is applied to any specific agreement is to think of it in two pieces: fast track generally, and application of fast track to any specific negotiations.

Currently, the overarching fast track authority is expired and has been expired for two years. The discussion about whether fast track will include labor or environmental language (a discussion which is much more complicated than it seems given that only certain types of labor or environmental language will have any effect whatsoever on actual negotiating objectives) refers to the terms of this overarching legislation's design. Reauthorization of any fast track, or any alternative trade negotiating authority Congress might choose to confer on the executive branch, will require a specific vote of Congress on legislation describing that delegation.

If such an overarching fast track authority is granted by Congress, to apply fast track's rules to a particular trade agreement, a President must request such a specific delegation of negotiating authority and of congressional no-amendments to a limited debate vote. Congress must vote not to stop automatic application of fast track once this request has been made.

Specifically, to obtain negotiating authority and such a pre-agreed closed rule, the President must notify Congress that he wants to negotiate a specific trade agreement with fast-track procedures. Notification is at 19 U.S.C. 2902(c)(3)(C).

Congress may then vote to refuse the application of fast-track procedures to a specific agreement by a vote of both Houses in any 60-day period, or by a disapproval vote of either the Senate Committee on Finance or the House Committee on Ways and Means within 60 days of the notification of the negotiations. Disapproval is at 19 U.S.C. 2903(c)(1)(A) & (2).

If Congress grants such authority, the President is then free to negotiate the agreement. The President must next involve Congress by notifying Congress 90 calendar days before he intends to sign a trade agreement. After the President enters into (i.e., signs) the agreement following the expiration of the congressional notice period, he may thereafter submit the signed trade agreement, implementing legislation, and certain required supporting information to Congress for approval. Id. 2903(1)(B). The implementing legislation must include a provision approving the trade agreement, and that legislation must be enacted into law before any trade agreement concerning nontariff trade barriers may enter into force with respect to the United States. 19 U.S.C. 2191(b)(1)(A); 2903(a)(1)(C).

While the fast-track procedures establish a maximum timetable for a vote on the trade agreement, there is no requirement that the congressional approval process take the entire 60 or 90 day period. The timetable was accelerated for political reasons for the congressional vote on NAFTA. Even though it was not readily accessible to the public at that time, the President submitted the implementing legislation to Congress on November 4, 1993. The House voted less than two weeks later on November 17, 1993, and the Senate voted the following week on November 22, 1993. Thus, the period for developing a full congressional record on the trade agreement and its implementing legislation can be truncated even further than the fast-track timetable.

The Congress is then required to have a "yes" or "no" vote. If Congress votes yes, it incorporates the terms of the actual trade agreement as well as all amendments in the implementing legislation into U.S. federal law.

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Preserving Olympia's Artesian Wells

Friends of Artesians

The word "artesian" comes from the French province of Artois, where artesian wells were first drilled during the 12th century. Artesian wells have their own natural pressure, caused by ground water being trapped beneath a confining layer of soil. Rain water saturates the ground at higher levels and travels downhill by force of gravity where it is trapped by the impermeable layer of rock or clay. The water builds up pressure as gravity feeds more and more water into the aquifer. When a well is drilled through the impermeable layer, water flows upward under natural pressure, rather than having to be pumped to the surface. Artesian springs occur where water finds its own way to the surface through cracks in the ground.

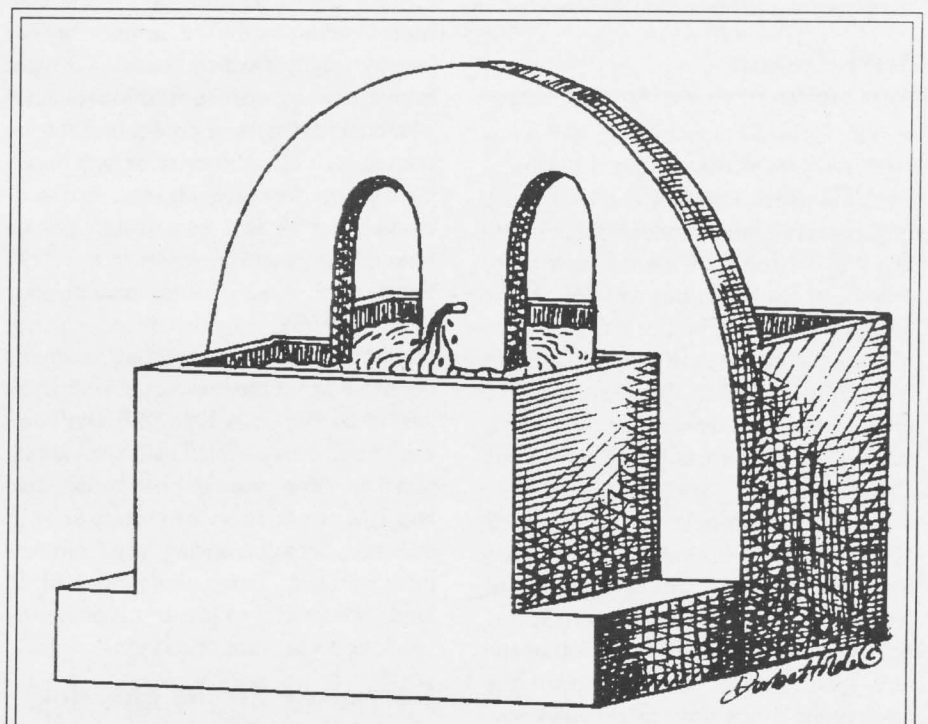
Artesian water is a lodestone of our identity and our history as a community.

Artesian wells were for many years the primary source of drinking water for Olympia. In the mid 1800s, an artesian well on Fourth Avenue and Capitol Way supplied most of the town with water. Later the water supply was piped in from artesian springs located in what is now Water Shed Park. Many downtown businesses had their own artesian wells. Much has changed in Olympia since the wells were first used, and most of the businesses are gone, but many of the wells remain.

• The well on Fourth Avenue in the Diamond Parking lot once served a grocery store. The store has been demolished, but the well is still a popular place to gather water.

• Near the corner of Olympia and Washington, an artesian well that once served a carriage house still flows. The well and the building's foundation are all that remain of an era when horses were Olympia's primary mode of transportation.

• An artesian well can be seen in the northeast end of Capitol Lake The well was drilled during the lake's creation to help cleanse it of salt water.



Proposed Cistern for Downtown Olympia

• McAllister Springs (an artesian spring), is the main water source for Lacey and parts of Olympia.

• The Olympia Brewery, whose motto is "It's the water," is supplied by 26 artesian wells.

Friends of Artesians are currently working to preserve the popular well located in a Diamond Parking lot on 4th Avenue between Adams and Jefferson streets. Extensive testing of the well's water quality found it to be pristine. Because the well is very old, its casing will be tested to determine if it is adequate. If it is badly rusted, there is a danger that contaminants could seep into the water. It may be necessary to re-drill the well and install a new casing. We are working with the state Department of Health, the state Department of Ecology, and other government agencies to find the answer to this and other questions to ensure that the well remains safe and legal. If a new well must be drilled, Arcadia Drilling has offered to donate its services to do so.

Diamond Parking has also been an active and cooperative partner, and has agreed to allow three parking spaces to be devoted to a new well structure and related art. Olympic Outfitters and Rich's Tires, which are adjacent to the well, have agreed to have murals on the walls of their buildings A team of local artists have collaborated on a design that integrates these murals with sculpture and decorative paving. If we can raise the funds to complete this project, the result will be a tiny, art-filled park that will celebrate this unique and historic public well, and ensure that it will be available to the public in the future.

Currently, all donations to Friends of Artesians are slated to be used for this project.

Mission Statement

The mission of Friends of Artesians is to preserve and protect Olympia's heritage of publicly accessible artesian wells, and to promote good stewardship of these extraordinary gifts of nature.

Who We Are

Members of our group — and the many citizens and local businesses who are working with us — come from different cultures and religious traditions. All of us share a strong belief that the pure artesian water that flows so freely from the earth has not just practical, but spiritual value. Artesian water is a lodestone of our identity and our history as a community. It is an ever-present reminder of the strength of nature and of the cycle of life-giving water that flows from the mountains to the sea and back again. We believe that by preserving and celebrating our artesian wells, we can not only live up to our responsibilities as stewards, but also teach the ethic of good stewardship—by example—to the generations who will follow us.

Our Vision

Olympia's artesian wells are a unique gift of nature and a part of Olympia's unique identity and natural heritage. More than 100 artesian well sites have been documented in the greater Olympia area. Only a handful of these wells are in use today. Most have either been capped or diverted into storm drains

Working with local businesses, the Olympia City Council, state and local regulatory agencies, and other concerned citizens, we want to perserve existing artesian wells, develop new wells at sites within public parks, use the wells as opportunities for environmental education and art, and support common sense regulations that safeguard the pristine quality of our artesian water.

You Can Help

Join the many citizens and local businesses who are donating money, time, expertise and ideas. We are seeking donations to perform critical hydrogeological and structural research, repair existing wells, design and build fountains, and create small parks and works of art. Donations can be sent to: Greater Thurston County Community Foundation, 611 Columbia ST NW, 2D, Olympia, 98501. Mark the checks "Greater Thurston County Community Foundation" and indicate that they are for the benefit of "The Friends of Artesians fund." Donations are tax deductible.

To volunteer, or to be on our mailing list, send your printed name, address and phone number to: Jim Ingersoll, 2029 East Bay Drive, Olympia, 98506. Indicate how you would like to help ■

September Events at Liberation Cafe

<u>September 5th, Friday</u>- 7pm - Video Night- Women's Stories of Accomplishment and Survival. Including: A Spy in the House Ruth Built, Rituals of Courting (the rituals of dating dyke style), and The Love Thang Trilogy (Asian Pacific Islander Dyke)

<u>September 12th, Friday</u> - 7pm - Discussion with Stephanie Coontz. Coontz is well known for her unsentimental writing about the American family. Her works include The Way We Never Were. She is a controversial speaker who has been featured on several national talkshows.

<u>September 19th, Friday</u> - 7pm - Slide show and discussion on humanitarian aid and the history of the conflict in Croatia. Returned humanitarian aid workers will discuss their 14 month stay in and around Croatia, as well as the origins of the war and the prospects for peace.

<u>September 20th, Saturday</u> - 8pm - Live Music with That Stupid Club and more. A benefit for Liberation Cafe.

<u>September 26th, Friday</u> - 7pm - Update on the political situations in Nicaragua and El Salvador. With the Comittee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

<u>Weekly Events</u>: Mon. 7pm: free Spanish Class; Thurs. 3pm: Books To Prisoners; Wed. 7pm: Liberation Cafe meetings; Thurs. 7pm: Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects meeting; Sun. 4pm: Youth Liberation Front meeting.

For more info or to schedule events, call Tara at 352-7336 Liberation Cafe is a member-supported non-profit organization. We are able to maintain the space and put on events because of the support of our community. To find out how to get involved, or to schedule meetings or events, please call Tara at 352-7336.

LIBERATION CAFE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Liberation Cafe is a member-supported non-profit organization. We are able to maintain the space and put on events because of the support of our community.

Membership is the simpliest way for you to help.

To find out how to get involved, or to schedule meetings or events, please call Tara at 352-7336 or come by.

116 East 4th Ave Downtown Olympia (Top Floor of Bulldog News)

Bastard Sons of the Gifford Pinchot Out of Control

Yuri Koslen

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest, stretching from the southern slopes of Tahoma (Mt. Rainier) down to the Ni'Chiwana River (Columbia), is western Washington state's gravy train. Now that both the Olympic and Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forests have had to stop cutting most of their old growth forest, the industries' lecherous eyes are once again focused on this unceded land, land which is still the homeland of the Cowlitz Nation.

The Cowlitz People are asserting their aboriginal place in their homeland as a Sovereign Nation. This land was occupied in the 1850s by Washington Governor Isaac Stevens, who on behalf of the U.S. government, forcibly moved the families and bands, now collectively know as the Cowlitz, from the Cowlitz River for the sake of the railroads and the timber barrons. This land, today bearing the name the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, once supported a healthy ecosystem for the two-legged, the four-legged, the ones that fly, the ones that swim, and all their relations. this area is bearing the brunt of President Clinton's actions.

This rogue National Forest is supplying much of western Washington's "matrix" under the Presidents Forest Plan (Option 9), and is supplying replacement volume for the "salvage" rider 318 tree sales. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests are generally following the President's forest plan, however the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has over 101,000 MBF in over 38 tree sales under contracts. This summer about 36,329 MBF of forest according to current contracts must be logged. Like most "public land" this area is already heavily fragmented by roads (2.8 miles of road per square mile of Gifford Pinchot National Forest), and clearcuts that have caused two straight years of high flooding and numerous landslides. It is estimated that of the $45 million dollars needed for road repairs from the 1995 floods, about $25 million has already been allocated to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Although the President's Forest Plan stipulates sustainable harvest rates, the GP is 20 MMBF over what the Forest Service itself estimates is sustainable. After seeing what these facts and figures lead to on the ground one can only support a convincing "No Compromise" Stance. Earth Defenders of all kinds are invited to join those presently working to protect this land.

Corporate Profits Entering the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

The pure size of the trees and the amount of trees that are being offered in this rogue forest have attracted infamous corporations which include Bugaboo, Vanport and High Cascade Lumber. Bugaboo earned its reputation from the Easter Massacre of Millennium Grove in Oregon. Vanport corporation out of Boring, Oregon purchased both the Tag and Jammin' tree sales in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, as well as another 500 acres of native forest at the Eagle/Talon tree sale outside of Estacade, Oregon. Vanport is one of the only U.S. mills authorized to market lumber specifically cut to Japanese building measurements.

Vanport has been publicly scrutinized before for their past new-colonial actions. President Adolph Hertrich made attempts to develop his very own golf course and housing development on unceded Chinook land. When told that the area was an Indigenous gathering place and sacred site, he replied that he would make sure to build around any sacred sites that were found. In 1996, the Warm Springs Indian Tribe filed a lawsuit in the Court of Federal Claims for $15 million in damages for the unauthorized harvest of 20 million board feet of trees from the reservation. The FBI delegitimized the claims by reporting: "The government's own conduct through the BIA forestry has been so outrageous... that companies would be able to use that conduct, probably successfully as a defense to criminal charges of theft."

Vanport should not be allowed to continue cutting on public land -- their neo-colonialist ways have proven oppressive, fraudulent and against the public good.

Roadless Areas and Jammin' Trees

Surprise, surprise it's not only the corporations that seem adverse to the lands, but the Forest Service itself seems unable to follow through with its purposes to protect public land. Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture, issued a directive that under the "salvage" rider, roadless areas will not be entered. Upon appointment in February, new chief of the Forest Service, Michael Dombech stated that the National Forest's roadless areas should be preserved (NY Times, May 23, 1997). Playing the same tune was regional Forester Bob Williams.

When the issue of roadless areas was first looked at by the Forest Service in the late 70s, the science of the day said that roadless areas over 5000 acres function as ecological reservoirs. In a more recent study in 1994, called the Eastside Scientific Report, it was stated that roadless areas east of the Cascade Crest greater than 1000 acres serve "as reservoirs of ecological diversity and benchmarks for restoring ecological health." (Henjum and others, 1994)

In a precedent setting case, Judge Coughenour on March 3, 1995 ruled that the Forest Service neglected to consider the information held within the Eastside Scientific Report. The judge said that the Forest Service's Environmental Assessments "lacked careful scientific analysis required by National Environmental Policy Act." Therefore, the Forest Service was ordered to prepare a supplemental Environmental Assessment that considered the Eastside Scientific Report. In spite of this precedent setting case, the appropriately named Ted Stubblefield, Supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, released the Jammin' tree sale 10 days before the expiration date for entering sales under the salvage rider.

Here in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest the lies of the agency's talking heads ring true. The Jammin' tree sale area, on the east side of the Cascade crest, is 370 acres of Native Forest, about 270 of those acres help make up the 3000 acre Little Huckleberry Mountain Roadless Area. There is one road which separates this 3000 acre roadless area from the larger Lava Bed Roadless Area. The Little Huckleberry Mountain Roadless Area is a unique south facing bowl within the Monte Cristo Mountain Range. Its steep slopes have already experienced landslides and floods due to roads and past logging activity.

One mile of road is planned for construction to access the native forests in units 5, 6, and 12. U.S. Fish & Wildlife will not let the Forest Service use a road that crosses Lusk Creek because of concern for the Brown Trout and Salmon (of the Little White Salmon River.) This restriction highlighted by USFW prevents construction of a new culvert, requires the deconstruction of about one-hundred yards of road, and recognized the importance of protecting Lusk Creek, yet USFW still fails to enforce the purposes of the Aquatic Conservation Strategies. This therefore enables the Forest Service to initiate a new one mile road, add to the amount of Native Forest already being cut, and further endanger Lusk Creek. No More Bloody Fuckin Roads!

Entering into this 3000 acre roadless area is again precedented U.S. Forest Service decisions and court cases, against scientific recommendation, breaks U.S. law, and takes place in unceded Cowlitz People's aboriginal homeland -- once again the illegitimacy of the Forest Service is blatant-- (therefore we must follow the decree of Peter Tosh "justice before peace".)

The administrators of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest are out of control. Of the forty timber sales under contract all contain Native Forests and scandalous particulars. The 20/35 tree sale, which included over $169,269 in road subsidies after a roadslide, plans to cut 812 acres (11 MMBF). The Patch tree sale, after contention over soil stability, sold for a reduced $97,470. Now the road accessing the sale has blown out in 30 places in a 13 mile stretch and over $2 million worth of road reconstruction is being attempted. Ollalie Dark tree sale contains stands of Red Cedars that have been peeled by traditional Native peoples, some of the largest Douglas Fir in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and is home to the Spotted Owl, Goshawk, and other old growth dependent species. This sale alone would provide 10% of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest's 1997 Annual Sale Quota. These and over 30 other sales have the potential of being cut this summer (some are in the process of being cut at present). Keeping the Bear in mind, imagining the movement of Mountain lion, we know that this land calls to have its' creeks swam in, its' trees climbed and its' roads ripped.

Update On Jammin Tree Sale

After two months of continuous presence at the sight of the Jammin Tree Sale (demented name, isn't it?), citizens occupying the camp closed the camp two weeks ago. During this time tree fellers cut the entire one mile of new road. A line of seven hundred year old trees have now fallen, beginning the cutting of the old growth native forest within the Little Huckleberry Mountain 3000 acre roadless area.

No matter who you are or where you stand in the struggle, your energy can be helpful, if you wish. The campaign is in need of homeless base camp occupants, ragging grandparents, computer hack-

(Continued next page)

This land...once supported a healthy ecosystem for the two-legged, the four-legged, the ones that fly, the ones that swim, and all their relations. This area is bearing the brunt of President Clinton's actions.

For more information call

GPNF, Forest Supervisor
Ted Stubblefield
(360) 750-5000

Vanport, Boring, OR
Head Officers
Adolph Hertrich
and/or D. Proudfit
Vanport Manufacturing
(503) 663-3113
or (503) 663-4447
Vanport International
(503) 663-3113

Hi-Cascade, Washougal, WA
(360) 835-8558

Base Camp info, maps or on the ground info for Gifford Pinchot tree sales:
Olympia EF! (360) 786-1549
Cascadia Forest Alliance, Portland (503) 241-4879
Seattle EF! (206) 632-1656

Biological and Scientific Info
Northwest Ecosystems Alliance, Bellingham (360) 671-9950

Cowlitz Indian Peoples Coalition/Cowlitz Mapping Project
PO Box 215 Bucoda, WA 98530

(Gifford Pinchot, cont.)

ers, families, lawyers, video-armed persons, and the endless energy of the youth. We need artists to help make banners, office workers, people to coordinate possible jail support, well mannered media spokespersons, money givers, warm hearts, strong spirits, and those that find the earth their home and find that now is the time to speak up to help others understand why we must defend her.

The weekend of September 4th, the WALL (Witness Against Lawless Logging) has picked the Gifford Pinchot National Forest near the Jammin Tree Sale as the area in Washington that is in dire need of protection. Non-violence training, tree climbing, walks through the tree sale, and possible civil disobedience will be part of the weekend. Please bring appropriate camping gear. Food will be provided for those that need. For ride information call 786-1549.

Other Gifford Pinchot Matters

During the occupation of the Jammin Tree Sale, citizens followed maps to some of the other native forest slated to be cut in the area near by. With help from the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (1-800-878-9950) who collected and organized data from the U.S. Forest Service, citizens surveyed and measured stream buffers (Riparian Reserves) on cut and uncut tree sales. According to the citizens who took the measurements the stream buffers that were required by the Forest Service's own Environmental Assessment to retain corridors for animal travel and riparian area integrity, were short in at least six accounts. These violations take into question the ability of the FS to employ basic regulations, let alone protect and maintain ecosystem diversity.

Rocky Brook Arrest Suit

If you were involved and arrested at Rocky Brook on the Olympic Peninsula in the Spring of 1996, please call 786-1549 and leave your current address and phone number. Being that all two hundred people who were arrested had the legal right and moral obligation to defend the forest, some people have discussed the idea of suing the FS for acting inappropriately in dealing with public involvement. All the charges were dropped because the FS was unable to prove that their actions were in the interest of public safety or the forest for that matter. The purposes of these matters is to provide legal precedence for how the FS deals with future and current public involvement in the lands entrusted to their protection.

"This place has been our life for thousands of years, to live with and to give back. We have shared our home with others, since forever, it is our way to help, to feed, to welcome and to be tolerant. It has been a terrible thing that recently, so many have taken so much, without conscience to their relation nor the effect of their greed.

"We native peoples ask that you the newer ones remember, everything comes back around to its source, and this land is the source of this existence, treat it as such -- step lightly, with respect, and stand strong, for this home also depends on you..."

Hait -- all my relations
Cowlitz People
Greg LaDue Grove
Taitnapun Cowlitz

A Cove/Mallard '97 Update

News from the Big Wild

Adam Woods

The summer of 1997 has seen several significant developments in the campaign to end the Cove/Mallard timber sales, and has proven once again that the ability of the legal system to rule justly is far inferior to the power of people committed to finding justice.

After sitting on the powerful Cove II lawsuit until the brink of the legal logging season, Idaho District Judge Boyle ruled against the Idaho Sporting Congress and environmental sanity by rejecting the lawsuit. The ISC then filed for an injunction pending appeal so that the destruction of the Cove/Mallard area might be delayed until the environmentalists have had their full day in court, but that appeal was also denied. The last legal remedy at this stage is a full hearing in front of the 9th circuit which is scheduled for January of 1998. In the interim, the courts have done nothing to protect this vital piece of the lower 48's last Big Wild.

While the lopsided wheels of justice have been stuck in the same old rut, committed citizens have gotten busy, putting themselves between the chainsaws of the U.S. Forest Service and the forest.

On June 15th as the protection of elk calving season expired, two brave souls perched in tripods, blocking the logging road to one of the sales. The protesters remained for three days before being finally plucked with a cherry picker, and sent off to jail.

Wild Rockies Free State

Others declared the 4th day of July a "Forest Independence Day" and set up a blockade on the road to the Jack Creek timber sale. The blockade - which at this writing is into its 33rd day — is an impressive sight. Several activists stay in structures 35 feet off the ground which are designed to make law enforcement to risk the activists' lives if they wish to extract them. Others are locked to cement barrels buried in the road. They say they will be safe as long as the Forest Service leaves them — and Cove/Mallard -- alone. Timber workers have said their bosses want them to start work on the area "soon," but so far no move has been made to oust the activists, a process which, once begun, promises to drag on for several days.

While the lopsided wheels of justice have been stuck in the same old rut, committed citizens have gotten busy, putting themselves between the chainsaws of the U.S. Forest Service and the forest.

The blockaders, many of whom have been on the road for more than a month, are fatigued of their self-imposed confines, but committed to staying there until the U.S. Forest Service agrees to their demands. They fill their days with the logistics of camp life, collecting firewood, cooking, repairing torn clothes, and fortifying their blockade. "There are much prettier places to camp in this forest than on the Forest Service's stupid roads," said Robert Carter, 27, of Boise. "But that's the point. Putting roads into this place is insane. When the Forest Service starts seeing this place as more than just a bunch of money trees, maybe then we'll go on a real vacation."

What You Can Do:

Write top agency officials and tell them how you feel about logging in roadless areas.

The Honorable Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture
USDA
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20250

For More Information:
Cove/Mallard Coalition PO Box 8968
Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-9755
cove@moscow.com

Northern Rockies Preservation Project
PO Box 625
Boise, ID 83701
(208) 345-8077 (phone and fax)

Mike Dombeck
Chief, US Forest Service
PO Box 96090
Washington DC 20090

Idaho Sporting Congress PO Box 1136
Boise, ID 83701 (208) 336-7222
iscsdd@rmci.net ■

(Detroit, continued)

newspaper workers to their jobs at the Detroit News and Free Press.

This line of reasoning by Judge O'Meara is so clearly irrational and contrary to established law that it drew this comment by William Gould, Chair of the National Labor Relations Board: "This [ruling by O'meara] is in error and, if accepted, would completely undercut Section 10(j)." The NLRB announced it is appealing O'Meara's ruling.

When O'Meara talks about the need for issues to be fully adjudicated before he can act, he is talking about a lengthy delay. Even under the expedited process he called for in his decision, the matter must first go to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C. and then it will go to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. This could take up to a year or two, perhaps longer.

While it is true that back pay could accumulate during this period, it is necessary to keep two things in mind -- First, there will be no back pay if Wilks' decision is set aside by the U.S. Court of Appeals (it is highly probable the NLRB in Washington will affirm it since they already voted unanimously to pursue the 10(j) remedy). Second, the amount of any worker's back pay award could involve further protracted litigation and in any case, would be reduced by the worker's interim earnings.

Frank Vega, Detroit Newspapers CEO, has bragged that the publishers will drag out the legal proceedings until the locked out workers move away, retire, or die. O'Meara gave Gannett and Knight Ridder the go ahead in carrying out this vicious strategy.

This decision represents class justice at work. It was a corporate decision, an anti-worker decision, and it exposes the role of the courts as serving the employers' interests.

What You Can Do?

USA TODAY is bad news for America!

Please do not buy or read the Detroit News, DetroitFree Press and USA Today. To cancel a subscription call 1-800-678-6400.

Donate money to the Detroit Newspaper Workers Relief Fund:

c/o Walter Freeman, GCIU Local 13 N 3300 Book Bldg. Detroit, Mi. 48226. ■

TELL OUR ADVTITSERS THAT YOU SAW THEIR AD IN WIP!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SEPTEMBER 1997 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

Fleetwood Renovations Near Completion!

Low Income Housing Due To Open This Month

Inside

Labor Issues: WFSE, Detroit, Nike and More!

Laurie Patten, Project Director of the new Fleetwood Low-Income Apartments and Resident Manager Ralph Smith inspect the entrance to the building.

1 Low-Income Fleetwood Housing Opens & Primary Endorsements

4 Along the Color Line America Faces Future

6 Prison Privatization

9 Labor Talk With Bev Hermanson of WFSE

8 Make Nike Play Fair

11 The Time to Stop FAST TRACK is Now

13 Olympia's Artesians

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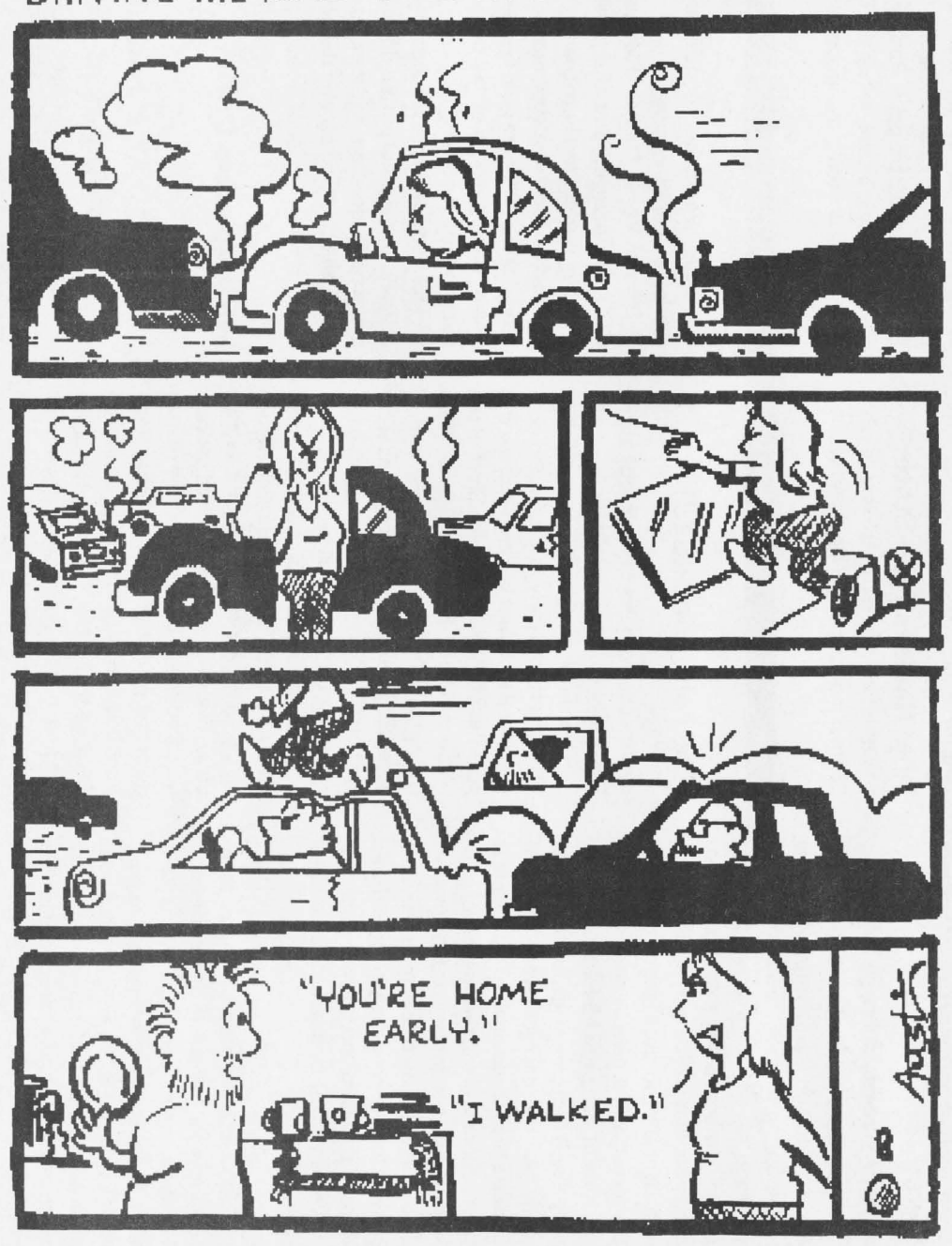
DRIVING ME MAD BY RON AND EMILY AUSTIN